

THE Splash

LIBERTY LAKE'S COMMUNITY NEWSMAGAZINE
DECEMBER 2014

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Community cornerstone — Peterson a catalyst as mayor, citizen

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Look around Liberty Lake and you will see Steve Peterson's influence around nearly every corner — the municipal golf course, the pedestrian bridge and, most recently, Town Square Park.

The city's inaugural mayor helped create the framework for Liberty Lake following incorporation in 2001 and he served until the end of 2007, when he lost a narrow election to City Council Member Wendy Van Orman. Peterson returned to City Hall at the start of 2012 with a flourish after claiming nearly 75 percent of the vote against Council Member Josh Beckett.

Recognized as an astute and straightforward leader with a savvy grasp of municipal finances, Peterson has been a well-timed fit for the city's "strong mayor" form of government. Those who know him best, like his wife, Charmaine, will tell you that there is a tender persona behind the tough exterior. An avid reader, Peterson will occasionally quote passages from books on leadership or finance to his municipal colleagues.

It would be a challenge to find a more

enthusiastic promoter of Liberty Lake than Peterson, who has called the area home since 1998. His catchphrases describing the city — "Spokane County's premier address" and "a safe, clean, green community" have become part of the community's identity.

While the city's progress and list of accomplishments during Peterson's tenures have been considerable, he will tell you that he has also learned valuable lessons along the way. Looking back on the city's attempt to acquire the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District in the early 2000s — a move that was met with opposition by district personnel and supporters while costing both sides substantially — he says the city was off base. He has worked to repair the damage and now maintains a healthy rapport with LLSWD. Peterson has also orchestrated magnanimous moves like Liberty Lake loaning the city of Spokane Valley \$50,000 after its incorporation was official.

Peterson grew up in Normandy Park, a suburb of Seattle. The city, incorporated in 1953, provided Peterson with an idyllic example of community life at its best. Part of his neighborhood bordered the waters of



A Cup of Joe

NewsMaker Q&A

Puget Sound while salmon fries and festive gatherings brought the town together.

He attended events at a popular gathering place called "The Cove," a community hub that still stands today. Public hearings and speeches by well-known politicians like Henry Jackson, Dan Evans and Warren Magnuson were part of the agenda.

Peterson gained an appreciation for parks, public safety and citizen involvement in his hometown, lessons that have influenced his priorities and goals as mayor.

"Folks took an interest," he said. "There are a lot of parallels between Normandy Park and Liberty Lake."

Peterson left the Pacific Northwest to

See MAYOR, page 4

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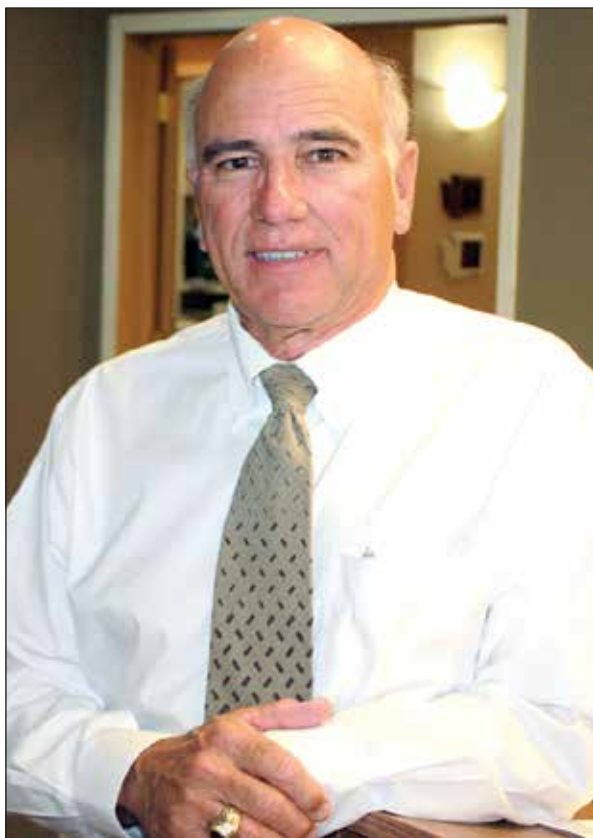
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NEWS



Liberty Lake Mayor Steve Peterson was elected to his most recent term in November 2011. He served as the city's inaugural mayor from 2001 until the end of 2007.

SPLASH PHOTO BY CRAIG HOWARD

MAYOR

Continued from page 2

attend college at Arizona State University where he majored in marketing. His career path started in the wholesale paper business back in Seattle. In 1975, he ventured across the mountains to relocate in Spokane. He has been an easterner ever since.

"In Spokane, you can walk down the street, see people and know their names," he said. "You're a fish in a pond, not a fish in the ocean."

Peterson left the paper field to work in pharmaceutical sales. He and Charmaine have three kids in their blended family. These days, the mayor runs his own property management company when not

at City Hall.

Peterson has been active in the local chapters of Kiwanis and Lions and has the distinction of being the first guest speaker to address the Liberty Lake Kiwanians back in 2001. When the Liberty Lake Farmers Market is in season, you will often find the mayor under the shade of a booth, mingling with the crowd and collecting opinions on the latest municipal initiative.

"My focus is on giving back," he said. "The first thing you can give back is your time. The second thing is your money. These groups like Lions, Kiwanis, SCOPE — they are the fabric of our community. If you want a good community, you have to help knit the fabric."

The Splash caught up with Peterson recently to reflect on the challenges and rewards of running Spokane County's premier address.

Q. Growing up, did you have aspirations to pursue politics? Did you ever see yourself as a mayor?

A. I got involved in the political process early at age 10. With my parents, we door-belled for Nixon in 1960 and then every two years for one of our legislators in the 30th District. I never saw myself as a mayor but in hindsight, being in the administration of government has more rewards than being one of many in a legislative body.

Q: What were some of your first impressions when you and Charmaine moved to pre-incorporated Liberty Lake in 1998?

A: Locating between Spokane and Coeur d'Alene, Liberty Lake was in the center of my sales territory and close to Charmaine's work. It made our home extremely convenient for the job commute. We were delighted with the parks and trails while being fortunate enough to live on MeadowWood Golf Course. The homeowners' association welcomed us in when we purchased our lot and that made a huge impact on our move into the community.

Q: What was your level of participation in the campaign to incorporate Liberty Lake and what made sense to you about this area becoming a city?

A: My involvement in the incorporation campaign was putting a sign in the yard. My work in the actual incorporation process began with the community meeting Lud Kramer held late November following the election results. We

volunteered to be on and lead one of the transition committees. Having grown up in Normandy Park, I realized the benefits of setting our own goals and priorities by capturing tax dollars that were going elsewhere. Government closer to the people is best.

Q: The task of pouring the foundation for a city was no small task for you and that first City Council. What do you remember about those early years when Liberty Lake was finding its footing?

A: The first challenge was learning to work together and base our work on a timeline to meet the incorporation objective of Aug. 31, 2001. We had a list of 285 items that needed to be accomplished during this time, so almost every day involved one-to three-hour meetings on top of our regular jobs. That annealing process between me, the council members and our initial employees contributed to the success we had in the future years as we took on community services, trails, roads and park projects.

Q: The Trailhead Golf Course is recognized as one of the city's gems as well as a consistent revenue generator. Yet when the city purchased the venue back in 2002, there was no shortage of cynics. Why did you believe in the idea of taking over the site?

A: Trailhead was an opportunity to maintain and protect green space at a time that we needed to expand our ability to care for the parks. While it was a fairly easy acquisition to accomplish with no "out of pocket cash," there was a good deal of concern that we would be successful just as the city was getting underway. I was confident that Trailhead could grow its revenue stream to support our operations and contribute

somewhat to debt service. I also knew that the purchase of Trailhead would allow us to move the outlet channel trail off Liberty Road saving considerable expense and that the city would benefit from Trailhead's 1,200 acre feet of water rights. In the end, our council agreed with my analysis and the past 12 years have confirmed our success.

Q: What did you learn about yourself and about Liberty Lake in the four years you spent away from City Hall?

A: I grew to appreciate the larger sense of community and Liberty Lake's role in benefiting our region. I learned how it felt to be on the other side of the council table attending meetings and the importance to have our council and community working toward goals that bind us together. Personally, Charmaine and I were able to focus on our post-work years and prepare for a more retirement lifestyle. We are busier now doing what we love in retirement than what we were when we had real jobs.

Q: You've been a staple at the Liberty Lake Farmers Market over the years, whether it's selling crepes or representing the city. What have you enjoyed about this venue?

A: The people that are starting their business, the people who come to shop and the opportunity to make new friendships while cultivating the old brings me enjoyment. Knowing that the Farmers Market has become extremely successful gives us a sense of pride for their growth. While some people still don't know me as mayor, they remember Charmaine as the "Crepe Lady" and Pecos as the "Liberty Lake Dog."

Q: You've thrown your hat into See MAYOR, page 37

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NEWS

Council approves property tax increase for 2015

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Each autumn, the Liberty Lake City Council begins the mandatory task of approving a budget for the upcoming year. Before applying its stamp of endorsement, the governing board must also determine how the property tax rate will affect the final numbers.

Over the years, the math has varied, with annexations and the annual decision of whether to raise the property tax the 1 percent allowed by law all impacting the rates. The economy has played a role, as well. In 2011, with sales tax revenue impacted by the nationwide recession, the city opted to access the property tax capacity it had "banked" in previous years, upping the rate by 3.10 percent. The hike represented the only year from 2009 to 2014 that the city did not leave the rate alone.

Mayor Steve Peterson's preliminary budget for 2015 included a 1 percent property tax increase, meaning a home assessed at \$250,000 would pay an additional \$4 next year. At its Nov. 18 meeting, City Council approved the 1 percent hike by a 6-1 vote with Mayor Pro Tem Cris Kaminskis in the minority.

At the first meeting in November, those around the dais appeared to be leaning toward the slight upturn.

"I'm in favor of it," said Council Member Dan Dunne on Nov. 4. "I believe it is fair and would serve the city well."

Council Member Odin Langford said he would support the increase, noting that the city has historically approached property tax from a conservative angle while providing residents with an abundance of capital projects and reliable services.

"This is a great deal," Langford said.

While Liberty Lake's property tax rate has not ballooned significantly in the past decade, the same cannot be said for the city's assessed property value. In 2003, the estimated worth of property in municipal limits stood at \$481,164,470. In 2014, that number had increased to \$1,114,307,278. Next year, the projected value is \$1,193,517,301.

Even with a 1 percent addition in 2015, Liberty Lake will boast one of the lowest property tax rates in the region at \$1.7598 per \$1,000 of assessed value. By comparison, the rate in the city of Spokane Valley sits at \$2.0448. Millwood charges \$2.10 while Spokane comes in highest at \$3.03.

"We provide a significant level of service but our levy rate is lower than all these other cities," Finance Director R.J. Stevenson said.

Waste management transition

In the other major discussion on Nov. 4, council heard from representatives of

Waste Management Inc. regarding the transition in citywide waste collection and disposal services that took effect on Nov. 17.

While Waste Management trucks will still collect trash and recycling on Mondays, the timing of the routes will change, according to Tami Yager, public sector manager for Waste Management. Yager said residents should make sure to move their garbage and recycling bins to the curb on Sunday night or by 6 a.m. Monday morning in order to ensure collection.

Billing will remain on a quarterly schedule although clients set up on auto pay will need to change their account numbers, Yager said. She added that the company is sending out letters to customers in Liberty Lake to alert residents of any necessary changes.

Since the city is taking over the facilitation of waste management, the process will involve closing out accounts that have been under the umbrella of state regulations to this point, Yager said. The other significant change involves solid waste from Liberty Lake being hauled to the newly renovated transfer station operated by Sunshine Disposal and Recycling on University Road just north of Interstate 90.

On Nov. 4, council voted in support of Peterson signing a waste collection service agreement with Sunshine Disposal while approving the first amendment to the solid waste collection agreement with Waste Management and authorizing the mayor to sign the amendment.

While Waste Management and Sunshine Disposal and Recycling will collaborate on the collection and disposal of residential waste, the companies will continue to compete against each other on the commercial side of collection in Liberty Lake. So far, the status quo appears to be in order.

"We have yet to receive a single call from a business in Liberty Lake," said City Administrator Katy Allen.

Debate over ballfield addition

The cost of capital projects and municipal services has generated plenty of fodder for discussion at Liberty Lake City Hall over the years.

On a night when not a single public comment was received on the city's 2015 proposed budget, there was no shortage of dialogue over a late addition to the Liberty Lake Ballfields and the dynamics of the snow removal contract with longtime city contractor Peplinski Construction.

The first conversation at the Nov. 18 council meeting arose when Allen outlined the projected price of a building that

See COUNCIL, page 38

IN THE BOOKS, ON THE DOCKET

A look back and ahead
at news from City Hall

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

In the Books (November)

- Steve Skipworth, a commissioner with the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District, told council on Nov. 4 that the district had received word from Whitewater Creek Inc., the Hayden-based development company, that it was withdrawing its proposal to add 700 ground source heat pumps to the Lakemore development. See the full story on page 9.

- Mayor Steve Peterson presented a proclamation to Ron Schoenberger, husband of the late Shirley Schoenberger, officially naming a portion of the municipal trail system to the east of the Trailhead at Liberty Lake Golf Course "Shirley's Trail." As one of the founding members of the Liberty Lake Trails Committee in 1995, Shirley had campaigned for a trail down the hill from the golf course.

- The finance committee reported that, through October, the city has already reached 107 percent of its projected sales tax revenue for 2014.

- City Administrator Katy Allen reported on a recent meeting with representatives of the Central Valley School District involving the possibility of a new elementary school near the site of the recently constructed Liberty Lake Ballfields. She said CVSD Superintendent Ben Small clarified that any construction would not jeopardize the fields.

- By a vote of 6-1, council approved a 1 percent property tax increase for 2015 on Nov. 18. The hike will mean a home assessed at \$250,000 will pay an additional \$4 next year.

- Allen said the Fallen Heroes dedication ceremony at Town Square Park on Veterans Day was well-attended despite freezing conditions. She added that the event and project in general has drawn "nice comments from the military community."

- Allen told council that Spokane County has changed the property tax assessment for noxious weed maintenance in Liberty Lake and Spokane

Valley to \$1.80 per parcel, down from \$3. The change, she said, will ensure that all county residents are paying the same rate.

- The proposed changes to the municipal sign code are now in draft form for council review. The plan is to take the document to the community development committee, the planning commission and finally the City Council for consideration.

- Police Chief Brian Asmus provided an update on the I-502 moratorium, banning marijuana sales, producing and processing within city limits. The current lid will expire in February 2015. Asmus presented a proposed map that would expand the buffer zones prohibiting I-502 activity within 1,000 feet of STA bus stops, school bus stops, churches and trailheads.

- Council unanimously approved a pair of land use proposals on Nov. 4 — the Legacy Ridge preliminary plat and the River Crossing North addition plat.

On the Docket (December)

- The Fallen Heroes Circuit Course committee will give a presentation at the Dec. 2 council meeting.

- Jim Nelson of DA Davidson will lead a workshop discussion on bond financing at the Dec. 2 meeting.

- Confirmations and reconfirmations of planning commission members will take place on Dec. 2.

- Council will consider a reimbursement resolution for capital project expenditures approving certain public improvements and public improvement costs. The discussion will also include an update on the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT) funding mechanism.

- A pair of first read ordinances are scheduled for Dec. 2 including the adoption of the 2015 city budget and a solid waste comprehensive plan.

- The city will hand out employee recognition awards to Trevor Ragan and Katie Wiykovics (both five years with the city) and Georgette Rogers (10 years) on Dec. 16.

- Second read ordinances on the 2015 budget and the solid waste comprehensive plan are scheduled for Dec. 16.

- Council is expected to award the contract for reconstruction of Appleway Avenue from Liberty Lake Road to Fairway Lane on Dec. 16.





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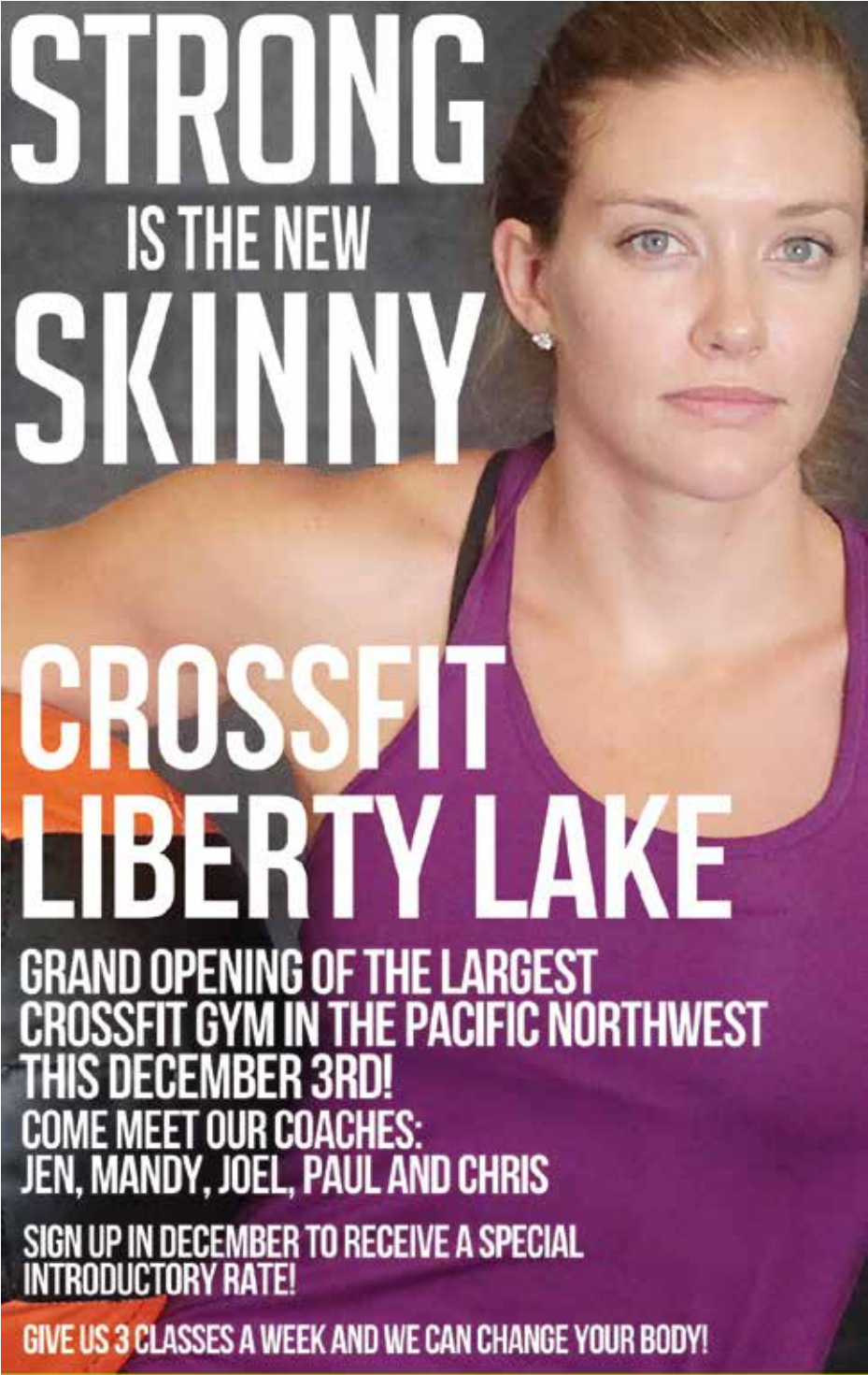
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NEWS

News Briefs

LLSWD reports on cleanup

The Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District said the leaf and beach cleanup that took place mid-November was a “resounding success.” Jeremy Jenkins, lake protection manager, said that approximately 11,300 bags were collected and the weight of leaves and lake detritus equaled approximately 451,790 pounds.

These efforts allow almost 500 pounds of phosphorus to be kept out of the lake, Jenkins said.

“We thank all who participated in the 22nd annual leaf and beach pickup,” he said. “This could not occur without broad community participation in our environmental protection efforts for the lake, river and aquifer.”

The LLSWD co-sponsored the event with the city of Liberty Lake for residences within the LLSWD boundaries.

Election results in

As of mid-November, the Spokane County auditor’s office said that there was 54 per-

cent voter turnout for the Nov. 4 election. Some of the results affecting Liberty Lake residents included:

- Republican Cathy McMorris Rodgers retained her seat as U.S. Representative for District 5.

- Bob McCaslin came out on top for position 1 in the 4th Leg. District state representative with 57 percent of the vote.

- Republican 4th District State Rep. Matt Shea was re-elected, also with 57 percent of votes cast in his favor.

- Liberty Lake resident and incumbent Spokane County Treasurer Rob Chase kept his position. Voters favored Chase over his opponent by a 60-40 margin.

- Other winners included Al French, county commissioner district 3; Vicki Horton, county assessor; Vicky Dalton, county auditor; Timothy Fitzgerald, county clerk; Larry Haskell, county prosecutor; and Ozzie Knezovich, county sheriff.

Results were expected to be certified Nov. 25. For more, go to www.spokanecounty.org/elections.



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Developer abandons proposal for ground source heat pumps

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Whitewater Creek Inc., a Hayden-based developer, has withdrawn its application to install 700 ground source heat pumps as part of Lakemore, a new mixed-use development in the eastern section of Liberty Lake.

The move late last month came after Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District officials expressed concern about the scale of the project and the idea of submerging the geothermal devices 450 feet into the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. The wells would have powered the heating and cooling systems for the development off East Appleway Avenue.

"I think there was a very high level of interest and concern," Commissioner Kottayam Natarajan said. "I was relieved to hear that Whitewater Creek decided to pursue heating sources other than geothermal, only because I was very concerned about the potential impacts to our sole source aquifer."

Natarajan said the situation "did a lot to raise awareness about our aquifer."

In a letter withdrawing the proposal for the ground source heat pumps, Todd Prescott, co-owner of Whitewater, wrote, "We are currently reviewing other sustainable options that would provide parallel benefits to the vertical closed loop ground source heat pump system. We will keep you informed as we move forward."

The project proposal originally was reviewed by the city, which outlined requirements for Whitewater Creek to meet before moving forward, including the construction of a test well under the supervision of a licensed Washington state hydrogeologist.

However, in early September, LLSWD voted to take over as the lead agency in reviewing the project and began the process of conducting an environmental impact study under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) to determine the threat of the project to the aquifer.

Whitewater Creek petitioned the Washington Department of Ecology to resolve the lead agency question between the city and LLSWD. The petition also challenged that the sewer and water district is not "an agency with jurisdiction," said BiJay Adams, general manager of LLSWD.

The DOE sided with the water and sewer district, saying the "the district is an agency with jurisdiction for the total project (that now includes the geothermal wells)."

News of the Whitewater decision came as a relief to LLSWD commissioners and staff, including Adams who said the district was



SPLASH PHOTO BY CRAIG HOWARD

Whitewater Creek Inc., developer of multi-family residential projects like Broadwing in east Liberty Lake, has withdrawn its application to install 700 ground source heat pumps as part of a new development in the same area off East Appleway called Lakemore.

"looking forward to working with (Whitewater) in the future."

"Many entities were keeping track of this project knowing that if it were applied here it could be applied anywhere over the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer in the region," Adams said. "The district received numerous comments opposed to the project from residents of Liberty Lake, throughout the region and across the state line."

Along with being encouraged with the level of citizen response, LLSWD Commissioner Tom Agnew said the scenario sent a message that future developers "should be prepared to conduct an environmental impact statement to ascertain that their project doesn't risk Liberty Lake's drinking water."

"Liberty Lake residents speak up and take action in support of their community," he said. "It's one of the things I most treasure about living here."

Liberty Lake Mayor Steve Peterson applauded Whitewater's decision to withdraw its geothermal wells application.

"I believe Whitewater Creek realized that the benefits did not outweigh the risk in offering the heating choices," Peterson said. "The cost just in maintenance and compliance testing going forward would far exceed current traditional heating and cooling cost and would not provide adequate compensation to the developer nor superior benefit to the future homeowners."

Whitewater has been an emerging presence in Liberty Lake residential development in recent years, offering the sort of affordable multi-family housing not traditionally abundant in the city. The company initially built a pair of apartment complexes — Talon Hills and First Liberty — in the eastern section of Liberty Lake and

followed those projects with Broadwing in 2012, a 50-unit site characterized by "workforce level rents with income restrictions," according to Prescott. Lakemore is the latest in the Whitewater/Liberty Lake portfolio.



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NEWS

Police Report

The following incidents and arrests were among those reported by the Liberty Lake Police Department from Oct. 27 through Nov. 17. They are listed chronologically.

Incidents and arrests

- **Theft** — At 3 p.m. Oct. 28, LLPD responded to the 19000 block of East Cataldo for a theft. The complainant reported finding a television in the field outside the RV business. This incident is under investigation.
- **DUI** — A 30-year-old Spokane man was arrested at 3:18 a.m. Nov. 1 at Liberty Lake Circle and Liberty Lake Drive for DUI and driving with a suspended license.
- **Theft** — At 1:04 p.m. Oct. 31, LLPD responded to the 24000 block of East Hawkstone Loop for theft. The complainant reported that sometime during the night wires had been removed from gas lines that were being installed.
- **Lost children** — At 7:45 p.m. Oct. 31, LLPD responded to a call for lost children call at East Boone Avenue and North Drury Court. Officers arrived to find a 6-and 4-year-old were lost in the area while trick or treating. The children were located a short time later.
- **Theft** — At 7 a.m. Nov. 3, LLPD responded to the 1300 block of North Liberty Lake Road for a theft. The complainant reported a white male had stolen \$359 in liquor from the location. This incident is under investigation.
- **Another theft** — At 4 p.m. Nov. 3, LLPD responded to the 20000 block of East Deschutes Avenue for a theft. The complainant reported that he attended a party over the weekend and placed his wallet, iPhone and keys on the counter and woke to find them missing.
- **Hit and run** — At 2:52 p.m. Nov. 4, LLPD responded to the 24000 block of East Hawkstone for a hit and run. The complainant reported the subject had backed into his vehicle and then driven away. An officer made contact with the subject who reported she thought she'd hit the curb. Both parties agreed to an exchange of information.
- **Theft** — At 1:08 p.m. Nov. 7, LLPD responded to a theft at the 20000 block of East Deschutes Avenue. The complainant

- reported someone had entered his vehicle and stolen a firearm from the center console.
- **Warrant arrest** — A 42-year-old man was arrested at 12:06 a.m. Nov. 8 at Appleway and Greenacres for an extraditable warrant.
 - **Another arrest** — A 50-year-old Coeur d'Alene man also was arrested 12:06 a.m. Nov. 8 at Appleway and Greenacres for driving with a suspended license and possession of dangerous weapons.
 - **Theft** — At 1:06 p.m. Nov. 10, LLPD responded to the 21000 block of East Court-yard Lane for a theft. The complainant reportedly met a male online and invited him to stay at his home for the evening as the subject was living out of his vehicle. The complainant reported the subject left the residence without saying a word, and he then noticed that his cell phone had been stolen.
 - **Malicious mischief** — At 10:29 a.m. Nov. 7, LLPD received a report of malicious mischief at the Rocky Hill Park area. The complainant reported damage had been found at the snack shack and boardwalk areas.
 - **Fraud** — At 4:30 p.m. Nov. 10, LLPD responded to the 24000 block of East Spotted Owl Lane for fraud. The complainant reported she had been contacted by a friend of a friend with whom she was not well acquainted. That person requested she cash a check that was made out to him in the amount of \$400. The complainant agreed, met the subject at her banking establishment, cashed the check and gave him the funds. The bank later made contact with the complainant to report the check was fraudulent. This incident was placed under investigation.
 - **Hit and run** — A 24-year-old Otis Orchards man was arrested at 5:52 p.m. Nov. 13 at Appleway and Liberty Lake Road for a hit and run.
 - **Warrant arrest** — A 29-year-old Otis Orchards man was arrested 12:20 a.m. Nov. 15 at West Wellesley and North Chase Road on a warrant for potentially dangerous dog at large and dog exhibiting vicious propensities.
 - **Vehicle prowl** — At 4:13 p.m. Nov. 16, LLPD responded to the 20000 block of East

Calls for service

Reported by the Liberty Lake Police Department Oct. 27 to Nov. 17

Agency assist	2
Alarm	3
Attempt to locate	1
Burglary	1
Citizen assist	3
Citizen dispute	1
Disorderly conduct	2
DUI	5
Fraud	1
Fugitive	2
Juvenile problem	3
Lost/found property	2
Message delivered	1
Not classified	5
Property theft	7
Suspicious person/circumstance	4
Traffic offense	16
Vehicle prowl	1
Violation of court order	1
Welfare check	2

Citations

Reported by the Liberty Lake Police Department Oct. 27 to Nov. 17

Dangerous weapons	1
Defective headlights	1
Defective muffler	1
Driving without license with ID	1
DUI	5
DWLS	13
Expired registration	7
Failure to drive on right of road	1
Failure to obey traffic control	2
Failure to stop at stop sign	1
Hit and run	1
Improper signal	1
Liability insurance	13
Physical Control	1
Speeding	13

Meyers Avenue for a vehicle prowl. The complainant reported someone had entered her vehicle while she was at church, though nothing appeared to be missing.

- **Burglary** — At 8:22 a.m. Nov. 16, LLPD responded to a burglary at the 1800 block of North Willamette. The complainant reported someone had entered her garage and vehicle sometime during the night. A total of \$405 in items was taken.




WATERSHED WATCH



A longtime resident of Liberty Lake, Keva was the original designer and driving force behind Watershed Watch, which has regularly ran in The Splash since 2001. The effects of her community and environmental advocacy around Liberty Lake and the region will be felt for years to come. This is dedicated to Keva for her ingenuity and devotion to all of the causes she was passionate about.

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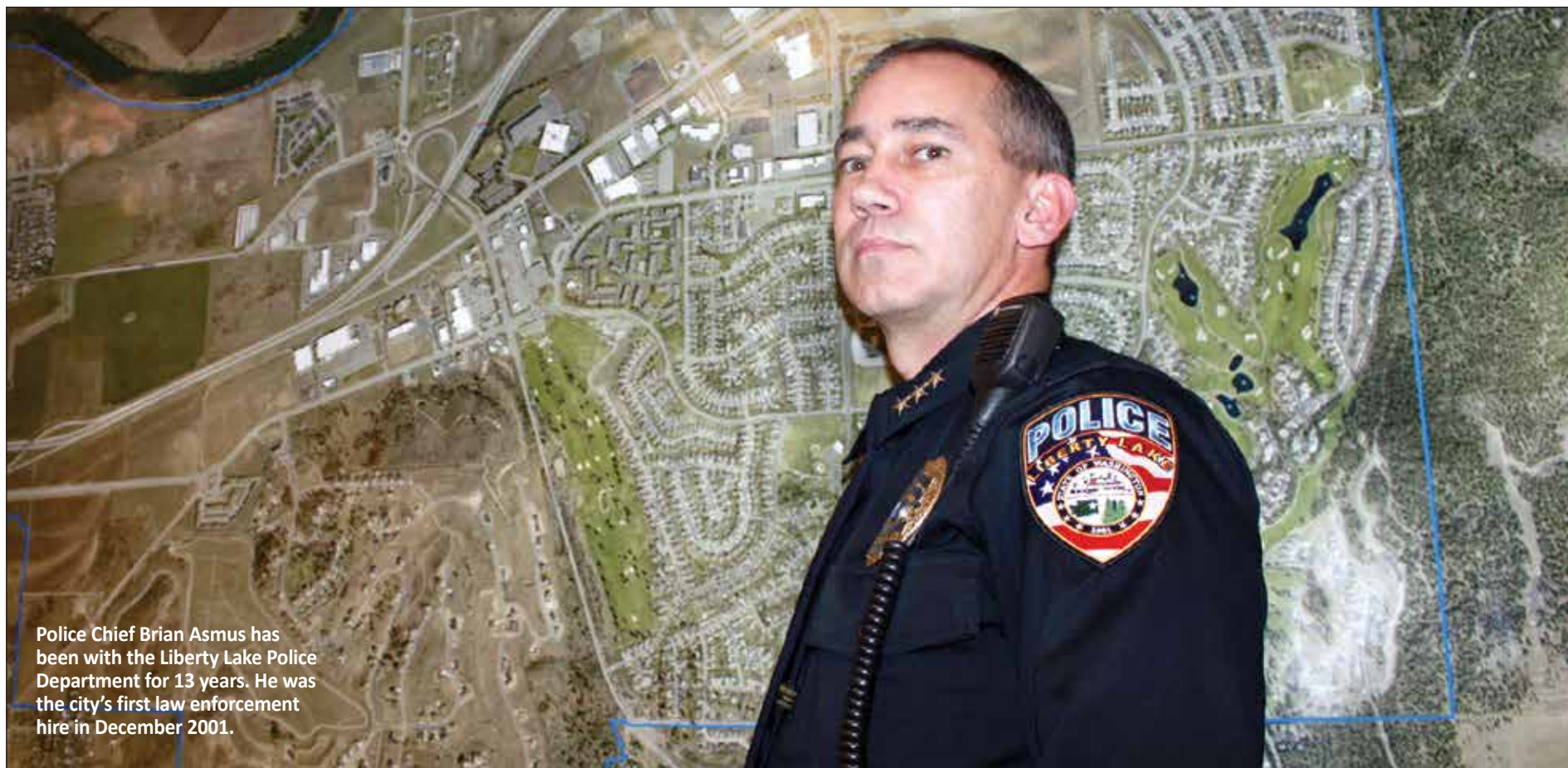
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Police Chief Brian Asmus has been with the Liberty Lake Police Department for 13 years. He was the city's first law enforcement hire in December 2001.

Staying ahead of the crime curve

LLPD takes proactive approach to law enforcement

Story and photos by Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

There were rumblings at the Liberty Lake Police Department in the early part of 2006.

Across the mountains, in Pierce County, the Lakewood Police Department was interviewing Liberty Lake Police Chief Brian Asmus for the lieutenant's job. Asmus had been Liberty Lake's first law enforcement hire in December 2001 and was widely recognized as the foundation of the city's small but stellar force.

"He built this department," Council Member Judi Owens said when Asmus was considering the move west.

Calls, letters and emails poured in from residents when the news spread, imploring the city to do all it could to keep the well-liked chief. By April, the crisis had been averted. Asmus would stay and it would not require a pay increase to keep him in Liberty Lake.

"We depend on his leadership," said Mayor Steve Peterson after the scenario played out.

These days, Asmus leads a crew of nine officers who have made their jurisdiction one of the most crime-free communities in Washington. A survey released by Safewise.com earlier this year rated Liberty Lake as the eighth safest city in the state.

Now housed in a sprawling precinct on Mission Avenue that covers 18,000 square feet, LLPD is recognized as a leader and innovator in its field. Nearly every officer brings expertise in one area or more and serves as a state-certified instructor. From bike patrols to social media to the latest in law enforcement technology, the department emphasizes what Asmus describes as "a proactive, community-oriented approach to policing."

The early years

After Asmus was brought on to lead the department in late 2001 from the small town of Yelm, LLPD moved into its first home at the Liberty Lake Internet Portal. A transition to the Greenstone building on Meadowood Lane followed, presenting some unique challenges for a force that initially included Asmus and Ray Bourgeois, another transfer from Yelm.

"We rented a space on the first floor with two offices," Asmus recalled. "City Hall was on the same floor. The space also included retail establishments. There was no evidence room, no holding area for suspects. We made do the best we could. We kept suspects in the patrol car, but we quickly

outgrew that."

Later in 2002, Wade Hulsizer, Clint Gibson, Mike Thomas and Todd Jordan joined the force. The first patrol car was borrowed from the city of Spokane.

"I remember getting calls from residents at the time, people asking why there was a Spokane police car driving around in our community," Asmus said. "We didn't have any cars. They had ordered them, but they hadn't arrived. We didn't have decals, patches, radios. We were operating off cell phones and borrowed equipment."

Bourgeois remembers the Greenstone space in the same way some might look back on their first apartment.

"We had half-a-dozen guys working in a walk-through space," he said. "It was tough. Working out of the one office, all the patrol officers shared one vehicle. At first, we didn't have notebooks, paper, pens, anything. The initial year wasn't anything like I expected."

Even after the force acquired its first two official vehicles in spring 2002, there were issues.

"I remember only having two or three patrol cars to drive for the entire department," Officer Brad Deines recalled. "One officer would be getting off shift and another would be coming on and driving the same car. This means the cars ran 24 hours a day, which is very hard on them."

Despite the cramped quarters, fledg-

ON THE COVER

SPLASH PHOTO BY CRAIG HOWARD

Officer Brad Deines stands in front of a patrol vehicle at the Liberty Lake Police Department.

ling fleet and lack of equipment, the city's decision to start its own police force was acknowledged as a prudent move among residents and city staff. Up to that point, the Spokane County Sheriff's Office had provided limited coverage to pre-incorporated Liberty Lake as part of a larger area that swept far beyond the section that would become the city.

"Taking on policing ourselves was a huge task," Mayor Peterson said. "I knew that the community would be better off having their own force, but the very first hire of a police chief would be critical in our success. We looked at several candidates and Chief Asmus was an exact fit for the person we needed."

The move to City Hall

In late 2002, Asmus and his burgeoning department moved along with the rest of their municipal colleagues to a site on Country Vista Drive just east of the Trailhead Golf Course. LLPD would occupy 1,500 square feet of the new City Hall.

See LLPD, page 13

COVER STORY

LLPD

Continued from page 12

While the headquarters allowed for more flexibility, there was still the matter of a community adjusting to a full-time police presence.

“Before, the proactive patrol was not consistent,” Asmus said. “With something like traffic enforcement, we were just trying to get people to slow down and be safe. I look back on that now and it’s interesting because we have people calling us every day telling us they have speeders in their neighborhood.”

Bourgeois, who was promoted to detective six years ago, said he has noticed more citizen involvement in the fight against crime over the years.

“From the time we’ve first started until now, I’ve seen people more willing to report things they see that are out of the ordinary,” he said. “They live in the area, they work in the area — they know what’s going on in their neighborhoods. They’re willing to take that extra step to make their community safer. People here are proactive about preventing crime.”

Support of the city

Before he joined the Liberty Lake City Council, Odin Langford lived in Louisiana and served 25 years in law enforcement, rising to the rank of captain. He is now one of three members of the city’s public safety committee.

Langford said the success and stability of the department starts at the top.

“Chief Asmus is not only in tune with his constituents but is responsible for setting the bar of performance and integrity of his officers who, without doubt, are doing a great job of holding themselves accountable,” Langford said.

In promoting the Liberty Lake civic pillars of “safe, clean and green,” Peterson described the safety of citizens as “the most important aspect of a healthy community.”

“We spend all of our property tax receipts on our police force,” Peterson said. “This focus translates into making our community safe for people to live, start businesses and raise families here.”

The mayor’s preliminary budget for 2015 includes funds for a new full-time police officer. Currently, LLPD slightly trails the state average of 1.5 officers per 1,000 residents. Overall, police protection has kept up with the growth of the city since incorporation in 2001. When LLPD originated, Liberty Lake’s population hovered around 3,000. Annexation and an influx of new residents have increased that number to nearly 9,000 today.

Asmus said the department is well attuned to keeping up with the growth of the city.

“When you take into account the number of calls we respond to, our caseload, calls for

Safety first

LLPD enlists education, enforcement

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

When the Liberty Lake Police Department formed more than a dozen years ago, the precinct bookshelf featured a policies and procedures manual that didn’t even pass for a brochure.

“We didn’t really have anything like that when we first started,” Chief Brian Asmus said. “Now that handbook is almost 500 pages.”

As the framework for the department was built, Asmus and his officers discussed LLPD’s central mission.

“We asked ourselves ‘What are our organization’s core values?’” Asmus recalled. “Then we started looking at operational values and the No. 1 priority we came up with was the prevention of crime. If we can put our efforts toward preventing crime, it’s going to make our job easier and our community safer.”

Asmus said he looks at law enforcement from two angles — education and enforcement.

“We always try to put the education piece first when we can,” he said.

While larger agencies like the Spokane Police Department feature separate divisions for areas like technology and community policing, LLPD takes a team approach with each officer pitching in. The result is an extensive list of programs ranging from a 10-class curriculum on the dangers of substance abuse taught at Liberty Lake Elementary to a radar reader board that residents can place in their neighborhoods to address concerns over speeding traffic.

Other LLPD programs include:

- Crime prevention seminars: In the tradition of the “Meet the Chief” series that Asmus hosted in the early

years of the department, the seminars present the latest in crime abatement strategies to community groups.

- Vacation House Watch: Residents who are going to be gone on vacation can call or email LLPD with the dates and times they will be out of town. LLPD officers and SCOPE (Sheriff’s Community Oriented Policing Effort) volunteers check the homes periodically.

- Operation I.D.: Residents can borrow an engraving device from LLPD and add identification numbers to possessions.

- Bike safety rodeos: Attendees go through an obstacle course and a take a written test. Police provide advice on how to be safe cyclists. They are usually held twice a year at the police department.

- Bike patrols: A quartet of officers is certified for bike patrol. Asmus has said it has improved communication with residents. Bike officers have even pedaled up on drug deals or fights. The patrols are also in place for special events throughout the year.

- Neighborhood Watch: Coordinated through SCOPE, this program relies on the volunteer leadership of block captains. The apartment complexes are now involved in Neighborhood Watch with Officer Taj Wilkerson as the liaison. Wilkerson spends time at each of the complexes and converses with the property managers about issues that need to be addressed.

- Portable surveillance equipment: LLPD provides this equipment to those who are concerned about theft and other issues at various locations in town, such as new construction sites.

- On-duty officer cell phone: Residents can call 218-4899 to report non-emergency issues. “We want to be able to address those issues where people are not calling 9-1-1,” Asmus said.

- Electronic search warrants: This program has made stops for impaired driving more efficient, as a warrant is sent to a judge who can sign it electronically.

service, types of crimes, we’re OK,” Asmus said

Langford said the city will continue to place law enforcement as a funding priority “as long as our community demands a higher level of service.”

“Because of size, geography, population and leadership, both within and without the police department, the city of Liberty Lake is able and willing to provide the budget that allows our department to meet or exceed expectations when it comes to equipment and training,” Langford said. “Good

planning, great personnel, top training and equipment, along with a sustainable budget, is a deliberate, coordinated effort to provide success for Liberty Lake residents.”

Asmus said public safety is a collective effort that includes the entire municipal team.

“As a city staff, we all work together to make this a safe place,” he said. “We have our grounds crew, our parks crew, our city engineer. We’ve always had great support from the City Council and the mayor. It’s really a citywide effort to make this the way it is.”

The proactive priority

From the origins of LLPD, Asmus has made it a point to engage the community, from open houses called “Meet the Chief” that addressed topics like identity theft and property crime to a domestic violence symposium that was held for the fourth year in a row in 2014.

“It’s about community policing that is fair and supportive,” Peterson said. “The officers from the chief down are well respected and engaged with their community by living here, participating in community activities and being role models.”

When it comes to the issue of the city’s most glaring crime dilemma — property crime — Asmus said residents can do their part to stem the tide.

“It is really basic — make sure you have good lighting, make sure you’re locking your doors,” Asmus said. “Even if you’re home, lock your residence and your car. Don’t leave valuables in your car.”

Asmus said the reputation of Liberty Lake as one of the safest cities in the region and state “can be a double-edged sword.” He notes how some residents — cognizant of the community’s low crime rate — can become complacent.

“The perception of our residents is that this is a very safe community, which it is,” Asmus said. “Therefore, they don’t feel the need to take those precautions because it’s safe. We’ll respond to theft calls or vehicle prowls and it’s very common that we hear, ‘We didn’t think we had to worry about that here or we didn’t think we had to lock our doors in Liberty Lake.’”

Asmus is also working to clear up what he calls an inaccuracy regarding the seemingly high crime rates that have historically trended in apartment complexes across the city.

“We do a crime stat report that goes out every other week to the City Council and the media,” he said. “When you look at that, I think there’s a misperception. There are several hundred units at each complex. They have different apartment numbers, but the same street address. Anytime you get dispatched there, that’s the address you’re going to see. When you consider that you have 400 to 500 people living at this address, it’s not much different that any residential area you’re responding to when you consider densities.”


Residents are encouraged to call the on-duty officer phone (218-4899) for non-emergency incidents. The second set of eyes can be critical to disrupting crime, Asmus says.

“We can’t do it ourselves,” he said. “We’re in that proactive stage where an officer will come out, have that contact, take evidence, look at fingerprints. It goes back to the entire community being accountable for what they want it to be.”

See LLPD, page 14

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COVER STORY



An automated records system allows LLPD officers to scan driver’s licenses and registrations, as well as print tickets, from patrol cars.

LLPD

Continued from page 13

Technology helps the cause

In addition to consistent funding support from City Hall, Asmus has actively pursued grants that have helped LLPD stay current with the latest technology, such as night vision and thermal imaging equipment. This year alone, the department has added cameras on each police uniform and a new digital radio system. An automated records system has meant increased efficiencies in the process of writing tickets and investigating traffic accidents.

“We now scan driver’s licenses and registrations and the tickets are printed out right in the police car,” Asmus said. “We have templates on the screen with pre-mapped intersections and can place the vehicles on the grid. An investigation and report that once took an hour now takes 15 minutes.”

The innovations have meant officers spending more time on patrol than on paperwork, according to Deines.

“When I first started we didn’t have computers in our patrol cars and if you needed to look something up you had to go back to the office,” Deines said. “Now that we have computers, anything you need to look up is at your fingertips. We can respond faster to calls or anything we need to.”

Asmus said the digital radio system acts more like a computer than a radio, ensuring direct communication with neighboring fire departments and police agencies.

“Instead of having calls patched through by dispatchers, they simply switch through to another channel and are in direct contact with another agency,” he said.

Moving into the future

It doesn’t appear Asmus is headed to Pierce County or anywhere else these days. He talks about remaining chief for at least another five years, maybe longer.

“I love the community and this atmosphere,” he said. “The support comes from everywhere — the residents, the businesses, the City Council, the mayor, our other law enforcement partners, the school district. It’s been great.”

Unlike other smaller agencies, LLPD is not seen as a stepping stone, Asmus said. Many on the force have made this a long-term career home. Top-flight technology, equipment, training, benefits and competitive pay contribute to the retention level.

“Here, most everyone has years and years of law enforcement experience,” Asmus said. “We talk about their future in Liberty Lake. People say they want to be here. Our goal is to keep the good people here.”

Asmus has brought up the lessons he learned in Yelm to the decision-makers in Liberty Lake. His message: Don’t let public safety become a secondary priority.

“Yelm was very similar to Liberty Lake in terms of size and geography,” Asmus said. “It only took a few years, and we were a reactive agency instead of a proactive agency. The city didn’t provide the resources we needed. That’s where I started my career. I saw it happen. I don’t want that to happen in Liberty Lake.”

While Asmus has been deluged with accolades through the years, he is quick to deflect credit to his troop of dedicated officers.

“We’ve put together a team with a tremendous amount of skill and knowledge and experience,” he said. “Each has their own niche. They all know what they’re doing. If something happens on their shift and they didn’t catch it and it gets reported the next day, they take it personally. They’re genuinely upset. For me, that’s probably the best part. I don’t have to worry about them. The team is the key here.”

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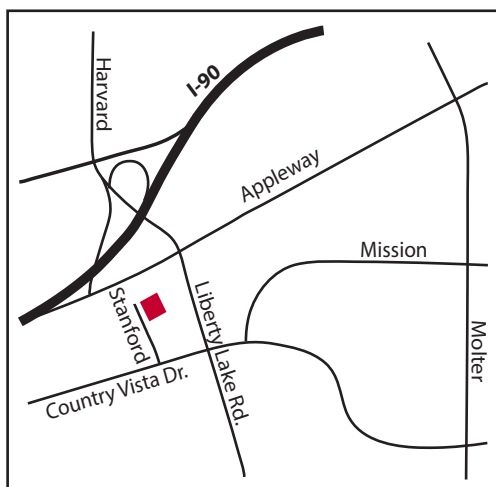
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Calendar of Events

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Nov. 27 | Thanksgiving

Dec. 2, 9 & 16 | Create Space: Jewelry Making 4 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Open to first through fifth graders; registration required. To register or for more: 232-2510 or parksnnec.libertylakewa.gov

Dec. 5 | Hunger Bag Drive Safeway, 1233 N. Liberty Lake Rd. KHQ will broadcast live and will be joined by the Spokane Renaissance group, a fiddler group and more.

Dec. 5 | Winter Festival 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive. City’s annual tree lighting ceremony and other festivities including hayrides, live music, games, mini golf, vendors, pictures with Santa and more. For more: 755-6726 or www.libertylakewa.gov

Dec. 6 | STEM-tacular Saturdays 2:30 to 4 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. This science, technology, engineering and mathematics series is for kids eight and older. The Dec. 6 project “Build Your Own DC Motor” costs \$3. To register or for more: 232-2510 or www.parksnnec.libertylakewa.gov

Dec. 6 | FOPP Holiday Ball 5 p.m., Davenport Hotel, Spokane. Tickets are on sale for this sole fundraiser for summer concerts, movies and events hosted by Friends of Pavillion Park. Cost is \$75 per person and includes dinner, dancing and auctions. For more: www.pavillionpark.org

Dec. 11 | Liberty Lake Municipal Library adjusted hours On Dec. 11, the library will open at 2 p.m. In addition, it will open at 1 p.m. Dec. 18. The library is closed Dec. 25 and will be open 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 26. For more: 232-2510

Dec. 15 | Winter Reading Challenge begins Liberty Lake Municipal Library is encouraging kids to read for four hours and youth through adults to read four books through Jan. 16. For more: 232-2510

Dec. 20 | Blessings Under the Bridge Winter Event 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 4th and Browne, downtown Spokane. This 8th annual event will provide brunch, hot beverages, clothing, winter gear and more to the area’s homeless. The non-profit organization welcomes volunteers and donations. For more: butb.org

Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve worship 2 and 4 p.m., Liberty Lake Church, 704 S. Garry Rd. For more: 255-6266 or www.libertylakechurch.com

Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve services 3 and 5 p.m., UpLift Church, 23424 Swing Lane. Residents are invited to come celebrate the story of Christmas. For more: www.upliftchurchll.org

Dec. 25 | Christmas

Dec. 29-31 | Game Week Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. All ages welcome to play board or card games and put together puzzles. Games, puzzles, Leap Motion equipment and YA tablets will also be available, and patrons are welcome to bring their own. Snacks provided. For more: 232-2510

Dec. 29-31 | Puzzle Challenge Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. The fairy tale puzzle challenge returns for all ages. Put together the big puzzle during Game Week and then identify as many fairy tales as you can.

Prizes will be awarded for those who can find the most. For more: 232-2510

Recurring

Friends of the Liberty Lake Municipal Library 4 p.m. the last Tuesday of every month, Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave.

Kiwanis Club of Liberty Lake 6:45 a.m. Wednesdays, Liberty Lake City Hall, 22510 E. Country Vista Drive. For more: www.libertylakekiwanis.org

Liberty Lake Centennial Rotary Club Noon Thursdays, Meadowwood Technology Campus Liberty Room, 2100 N. Molter Road. For more: 922-4422

Liberty Lake Lions Club Noon on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, Barlow’s Restaurant, 1428 N. Liberty Lake Road. For more: 869-7657

Liberty Lake Municipal Library 23123 E. Mission Avenue. 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, toddler story time; 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Create space for kids; 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays, preschool play; Noon Thursdays, Baby lap-sit story time; 4 p.m. Thursdays, Teen makers; 7 p.m. Thursdays, pajama story time; 10:30 a.m. Fridays, preschool story time; 4 p.m. Fridays, Lego club; 10:30 a.m. Saturdays, Knitting Club; 1:20 p.m. Saturdays, kids craft. For more: 232-2510

Liberty Lake Toastmasters 5:45 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District building, 22510 E. Mission Ave. For more: 208-765-8657

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network 6:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month, Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. For more: www.pancan.org

Senior Lunch 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, Talon Hills Senior Complex, 24950 E. Hawkestone Loop. Seniors age 60 and older invited; recommended donation \$3.50.

Spokane Valley Writer’s Group 6:45 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of every month, Lakeside Church, 23129 E. Mission. This supportive critique group welcomes adult writers. For more: 570-4440

MUSIC & THE ARTS

Dec. 5 | Craft Fair 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Valley Hospital, 12606 E. Mission Ave., Spokane Valley. There is free admission to this fair in the health education building.

Dec. 6 | This, That or the Other 8 p.m., Liberty Lake Community Theatre, 22910 E. Appleway Ave. This performance by LLCT’s comedy improv troupe is for ages 21 and older. Tickets are \$7 at the door. For more: www.libertylaketheatre.com

Dec. 11-13, 18-20 | Stocking Stuffers Liberty Lake Community Theater, 22910 E. Appleway Ave. Tickets are just \$12 online for this holiday comedy for the entire family. For show times and more: www.libertylaketheatre.com

Recurring

Spokane Valley Camera Club 7:30 p.m., third and fourth Monday of the month (September through April), Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District building, 22510 E. Mission Ave. Those

with an interest in photography are invited to arrive at 7 p.m. for socializing. For more: 951-1446 or www.sv-cc.org

• *Digital night is Dec. 15, print night is Dec. 22.*

CIVIC & BUSINESS

Nov. 29 | Small Business Saturday

Nov. 28 to Dec. 21 | U-Cut Christmas Trees 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Carver Farms, 9105 N. Idaho Road, Newman Lake. Enjoy free hot cocoa and cider while selecting your Christmas tree. For more: www.carverfarms.com

Dec. 2-14 | Christmas Tree Elegance Davenport Hotel and River Park Square, Spokane. Presented by Spokane Symphony Associates, this raffle provides a chance to win a custom-decorated tree and its gifts or Father Christmas sculpture. For more: www.symphonysymphonyassociates.org

Dec. 4 | Holiday Social 4-6 p.m. Chamber Business Center, 1421 N. Meadowwood Ln. The Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce is hosting the event with light appetizers and holiday cheer. For more: www.spokanevalleychamber.org

Dec. 4 | Healthy Living seminar 5 p.m., Zi Spa, 1859 N. Lakewood Dr., Coeur d’Alene. A presentation on the CoolSculpting procedure will be made by Healthy Living Liberty Lake. To register or for more: 924-6199 or www.healthylivingll.com

Dec. 12 | Season of Sharing breakfast 7-9 a.m., Mirabeau Park Hotel, 1100 N. Sullivan Road. Hosted by the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce, businesses can partner with member charities to support this event. For more: www.spokanevalleychamber.org

Dec. 12 | Women Executives of Liberty Lake (WELL) 12:45 a.m. to 2 p.m., Liberty Lake Portal, Mica Peak room, 23403 E. Mission Ave. Join other members for the annual Christmas social. For more: www.womenexecutivesoflibertylake.com

Recurring

Central Valley School board 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, CVSD administration building, 19307 E. Cataldo, Spokane Valley.

Liberty Lake City Council 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive.

Liberty Lake Library Foundation Noon the first Wednesday of each month, 23123 E. Mission Ave.

Liberty Lake Merchants Association 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Liberty Lake Portal, 23403 E. Mission Ave., Suite 120. For more: 999-4935

Liberty Lake Municipal Library board 10:30 a.m. the first Thursday of each month, 23123 E. Mission Ave.

Liberty Lake Planning Commission 4 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive.

Liberty Lake SCOPE 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive

Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District board 4 p.m. on the second Monday of each month, 22510 E. Mission Ave.

HEALTH & RECREATION

Nov. 27 | Turkey Trot 8 a.m., Twisp Café & Coffee House, 23505 E. Appleway. Join the Liberty Lake Running Club for a 3-mile run on Thanksgiving morning. The group will be collecting items such as gloves, boots, socks, blankets and bus tokens for Blessings Under the Bridge. For more: 954-9806

Nov. 29 | Warrior Camp MMA event 6 to 10: 30 p.m., HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. Tickets for the live MMA cage fights are \$20 and can be purchased at Warrior Camp, 5027 E. Trent, Spokane. For more: www.warriorcampfitness.com

Dec. 13 | Jingle Bell Run 9 a.m., The Cork-House, 1400 N. Meadowwood Lane. Join the Liberty Lake Running Club for a 3-mile holiday run. For more: 954-9806

Dec. 13-14 | AAU Santa Slammer Tournament 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. For more: www.hubsportscenter.org

Dec. 22 | Winter Multi-Sport Camp 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. First through sixth graders can sample a variety of sports including basketball, volleyball, soccer, wiffleball, dodge ball, pickleball and more. To register: www.hubsportscenter.org.

Dec. 27-28 | Snowball Shoot-Out Futsal Tournament HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. Registration for this 5-v-5 futsal tournament is \$250 per team and must be received by Dec. 6. For more: www.hubsportscenter.org

Recurring

KidFIT Spokane HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. This children’s movement and fitness program offers classes in dance (ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop), gymnastics and cheerleading for girls and boys ages 3 and older of all levels. Join anytime. For more: 953-7501 or www.kidfitspokane.com

Realistic Wellness 8:30 a.m. Saturdays, Lakeside Church, 23129 E. Mission. This co-ed exercise class is for all levels. For more: 210-9779

HUB Sports Center 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. Various activities and events occur throughout the week including:

- *Badminton open gym: 7 to 9 p.m. Tues., \$5*
- *Basketball open gym: Noon to 1 p.m. Tues., \$4*
- *Pickleball drop-in: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mon. through Thurs.; 6 to 8 p.m. Sun. \$2/seniors (\$4/non-seniors)*
- *Table Tennis: 7 to 9:30 p.m., Mon. and Wed.; \$3*
- *Classes including Bootcamp Fitness Training, Keno Karate, Modern Farang-Mu Sul, Wing*
- *Chun Kung Fun and Sushu Kung Fu. See website for cost and times.*

All calendar listings were provided to or gathered by Splash staff. If you would like your event considered for the community calendar, please submit information by the 15th of the month to calendar@libertylakesplash.com. ...

COMMUNITY

■ Community Briefs

City holds holiday food drive

The city of Liberty Lake is collecting food items for Second Harvest Food Bank Dec. 1-31. Donations of cash or non-perishable items will be accepted during the tree lighting ceremony or at City Hall, Liberty Lake Municipal Library or Trailhead Golf Course.

Residents can also make an online donation, where every dollar donated equals six pounds of food. To donate or for more, go to www.libertylakewa.gov.

Businesses solicit household essentials

Several area businesses are collecting items to stock the shelves at Hearth Homes and Northwest Connect this holiday season. The two non-profits are in need of non-food household items such as dish soap, all-purpose cleaners, paper towels, Kleenex, razors, soap, shampoo, laundry detergent and trash bags.

IntelliText has teamed up with The Liberty Lake Athletic Club, Casey Family Dental, Northwest Health Services and St. Joseph Catholic Church to be collection sites for these items. Donations will be accepted Dec. 1-12 during business hours.

For more information, call 850-7425.

Support local theater

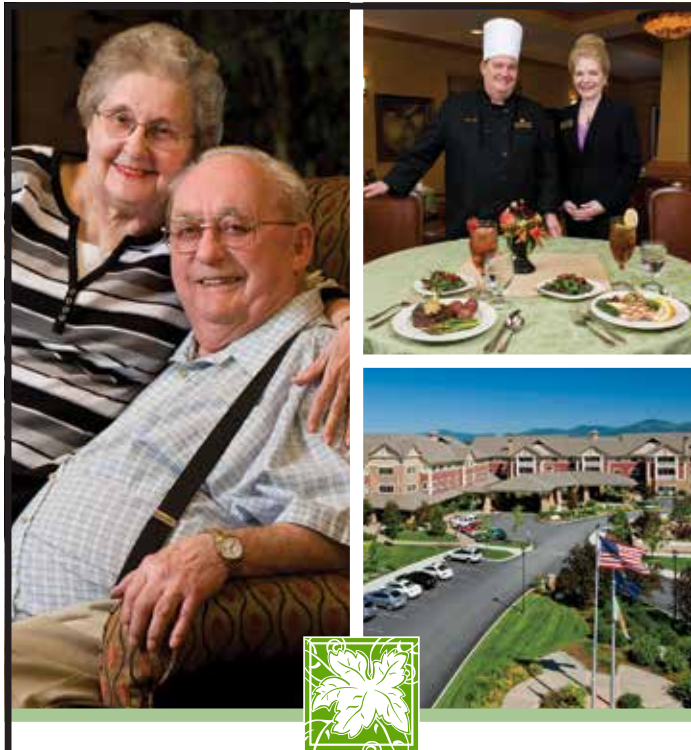
Liberty Lake Community Theatre recently announced a couple ways for residents to support the local theater. If consumers use Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com), they can register to have .5 percent of their purchase be given to the theater.

The theater is also selling ready-to-light luminarias for \$15 per dozen to decorate your home on Christmas Eve with all proceeds benefitting the theater. For more, visit www.libertylaketheatre.com.

Greenacres Elementary holds voter registration drive

In an effort to increase voter registration and teach students the importance of the voting process, Greenacres Elementary PTA is hosting a voter registration drive. Eligible parents are encouraged to return a completed registration form to the school office or register online at www.sos.wa.gov/elections/myvote.

Part of the goal of the drive is to increase the number of voters in their voting precinct leading up to the next election on Feb. 10, 2015. There is also a friendly competition with other schools in Central Valley School District to increase voter registrations across the district as a whole.



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Rewved up over robots

Library hosts
STEM-tacular
events for kids

By Tammy Kimberley
SPLASH STAFF WRITER

Energy of all types was flowing during a November STEM-tacular event held at Liberty Lake Municipal Library.

Kids excitedly emptied boxes of all parts and then watched as library technical specialist Travis Montgomery showed them how to put together their own robots that could operate on solar energy or battery power.

The afternoon class, which was made up of two girls and seven boys, was part of a recent series offered by the library to engage kids in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities. STEM education involves critical thinking, problem solving and hands-on learning to help students understand apply math and science skills.

During the hour-and-a-half class, Montgomery led students through a step-by-step tutorial of how to assemble their robots, as

well as provided explanations and demonstrations of solar power, voltage and resistance.

He also helped various kids, such as Danielle Patchin, get their parts in the right places so that the robot would function at its best. Danielle, 8, said she learned that solar means something gets its power from the sun.

"I like doing science," she said. "I've never built a robot before, but I'd like to do it again."

Library Director Pamela Mogen said the idea for a STEM series was first explored by Michelle Griffin, city parks and recreation coordinator, and Joan Peters, a private tutor who assisted with the Nov. 15 class. The library was asked to host the programs as well as invited to help with planning and teaching.

This first class was full within days of it being advertised in the library's newsletter, Mogen said. And the kids who attended seemed charged up over creating their own robots.

Josh Rivera, 11, said he had an interest in robotics and programming, which is why he signed up for the class.

"I knew some about solar power, but I learned more about resistors," he said. "I enjoyed putting together the parts and joints on the robot and figuring out how they all went together."

See ROBOTS page 19

What is STEM?

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education.

For more information and activities, visit www.stem-works.com.

STEM-tacular Saturday

Dec. 6 • 2:30 to 4 p.m.
Liberty Lake
Municipal Library

The project involves building your own DC motor. Cost is \$3; space is limited.

To register or for more: www.libertylakewa.gov



SPLASH PHOTOS BY
TAMMY KIMBERLEY

Library IT specialist Travis Montgomery instructs kids on the difference between solar and battery power during a STEM-tacular Saturday event.

Brock Duer and Danielle Patchin work on assembling their robots.



Looking for Santa?

Compiled by
Tammy Kimberley
SPLASH STAFF WRITER

Santa Claus is making quite a few appearances in the Valley area before his rounds on Christmas Eve. Check out this list of a few places he can be found this holiday season.



Visit Santa while shopping

Nov. 15-Dec. 14,
various times

Spokane Valley Mall

If you have to tag along with mom or dad while they're hunting for presents, convince them to stop by for a visit with the big guy. You can even bring your furry friend along for photos with Santa on Monday evenings through Dec. 15. For more: www.spokanevalleymall.com

Pictures with Santa

Nov. 28-29 & Dec. 6,
13; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lone Wolf Harley-Davidson,
Spokane Valley

Give a \$5 donation to Toys for Tots and get your photo taken with Santa. For more: 927-7433



Visit Santa's workshop

Dec. 5, 5:30 to
7:30 p.m.

Liberty Lake City Hall

During the city's Winter Festival tree lighting ceremony, families are invited to take a tour of Santa's Workshop. Be sure to bring a camera or smart phone so one of Santa's elves can take a picture for you! For more: www.libertylakewa.gov

Breakfast with Santa

Dec. 6, 8:30 to 11 a.m.
CenterPlace Regional
Event Center

Enjoy a pancake breakfast, games and crafts along with the opportunity to have your picture taken with Santa while telling him your Christmas wishes. Cost is \$5; pre-registration is strongly encouraged. For more: www.spokanevalley.org/santabreakfast

Enjoy a donut and see Santa

Dec. 13, 11 a.m.
to 2 p.m.

Krispy Kreme,
Spokane Valley

Santa is stopping by Krispy Kreme to enjoy a treat while visiting with kids. Pictures will be free. For more: 922-7101



Play in the park with Santa

Dec. 13, 1 to 2 p.m.
Rockford Park

Take a horse-drawn wagon ride, enjoy s'mores and hot chocolate and sing Christmas carols during this free event hosted by the Rockford Lions Club.



COMMUNITY

Christmas Tree Trivia

★ The first Christmas tree was the centerpiece of holiday festivities in 15th century Latvia.

★ Americans plan to spend an average of \$781 on presents and other holiday items this Christmas.

★ The first artificial tree was offered by Sears, Roebuck & Company — 33 limbs for 50¢ or 55 limbs for \$1.

Compiled by Tammy Kimberley
SPLASH STAFF WRITER

★ While the average growing time is seven years, it can take as many as 15 years and as little as four years to grow a tree of typical height, which is 6 to 7 feet.

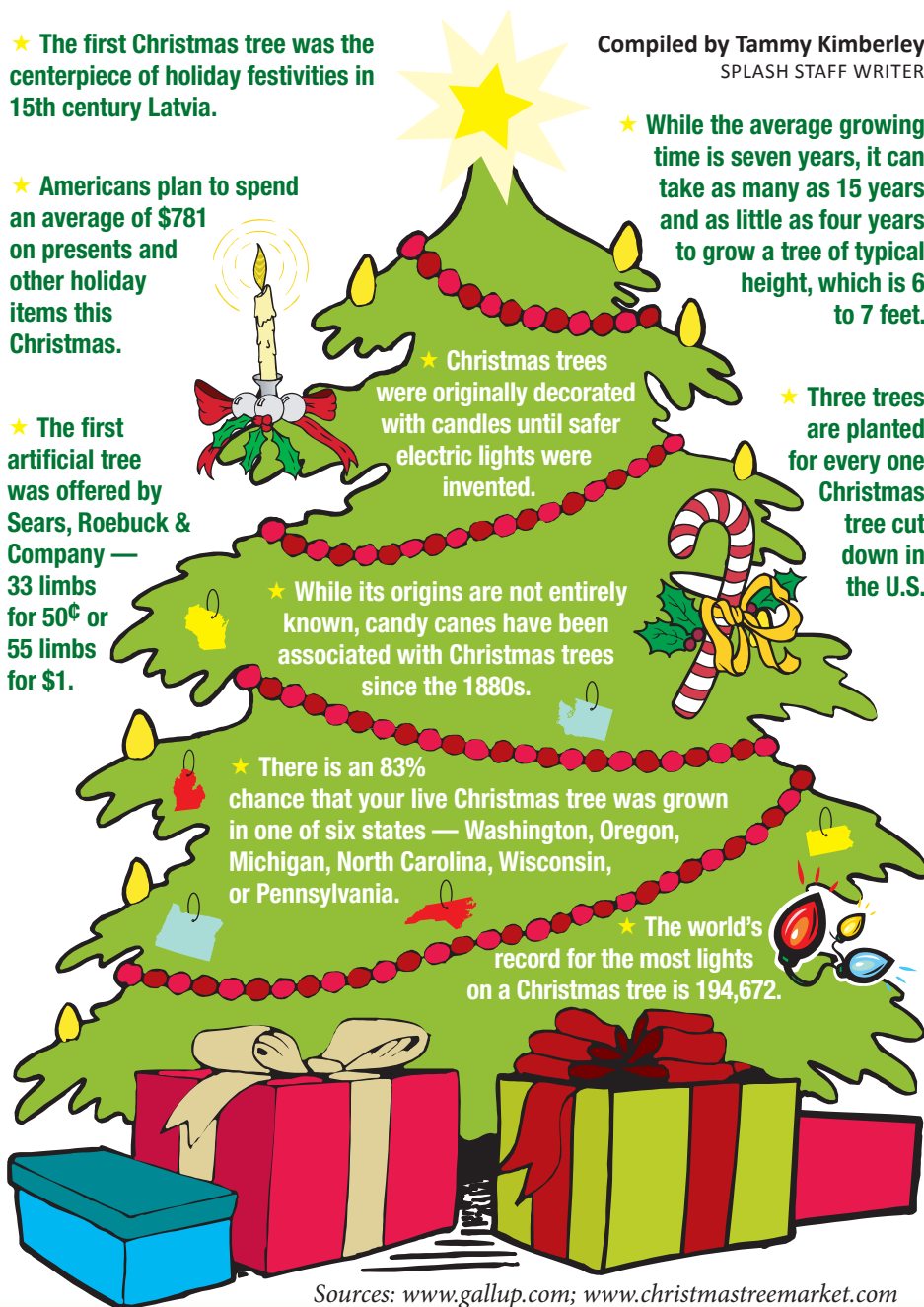
★ Christmas trees were originally decorated with candles until safer electric lights were invented.

★ Three trees are planted for every one Christmas tree cut down in the U.S.

★ While its origins are not entirely known, candy canes have been associated with Christmas trees since the 1880s.

★ There is an 83% chance that your live Christmas tree was grown in one of six states — Washington, Oregon, Michigan, North Carolina, Wisconsin, or Pennsylvania.

★ The world's record for the most lights on a Christmas tree is 194,672.



Sources: www.gallup.com; www.christmastreemarket.com

ROBOTS

Continued from page 18

Some kids figured out which parts fit together by trial and error, and learning took place as they touched the wires to the battery pack Travis furnished since solar power was not readily available that day. And the time spent building did not disappoint, as excited gasps and big smiles spread across the room as the robots slowly took their first steps.

Carolyn Rose, whose mom signed her up for the class, said putting together the robot was a lot like building Legos.

"Building a robot was a little harder than I thought it might be, but I had fun trying,"

the 8-year-old girl said.

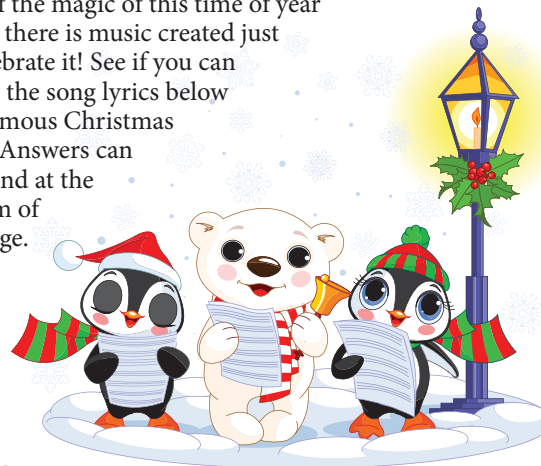
STEM-tacular Saturdays will take place on various Saturdays through April, Mogen said. City employees and community members have volunteered to teach on topics such as DC motors, bridge design, dinosaurs, soil, drones and more.

"We hope to offer STEM opportunities again next winter," Mogen said. "We'd love to see the Bridge Design and Build become a yearly competition."

Most of the programs are for children eight years old and up, but some more complex programs will be for children 10 years old and up, Mogen said. There is a charge to attend but the amount varies to cover the expense of materials.

Are you in tune with Christmas?

Part of the magic of this time of year is that there is music created just to celebrate it! See if you can match the song lyrics below to a famous Christmas carol. Answers can be found at the bottom of the page.



Lyrics

1. "And if you ever saw him, you would even say it glows."
2. "Oh what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh."
3. "Better not pout I'm telling you why"
4. "Don't you cry, I'll be back again some day."
5. "Holy infant so tender and mild"
6. "Two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree"
7. "Gee, how happy I'd be if I could only whistle"
8. "'Tis the Season to be jolly"
9. "Good tidings we bring to you and your kin"
10. "The stars in the sky looked down where he lay"

Songs

All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth

Away in a Manger

Deck the Hall

Frosty the Snowman

Jingle Bells

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Silent Night

The 12 Days of Christmas

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Source: www.gourmetgiftbaskets.com/Christmas-Songs.asp

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Answers to "Are you in tune with Christmas?": 1) Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer; 2) Jingle Bells; 3) Santa Claus is Coming to Town; 4) Frosty the Snowman; 5) Silent Night; 6) The 12 Days of Christmas; 7) All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth; 8) Deck the Hall; 9) We Wish You a Merry Christmas; 10) Away in a Manger

The Fountain

About and for Liberty Lake seniors

Brought to you by



Sewing for soldiers

LL woman uses skills to benefit Wounded Warriors

By Sarah Robertson
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

The holiday season seems to bring out the best in people. The air is festive, and our generosity seems to increase as we prepare to celebrate the holidays and spend time with loved ones.

One woman in Liberty Lake spends all year preparing for the holiday season in anticipation of helping others and sharing her time and talent with those in need.

René Andres, 67, has been an avid seamstress since her aunt taught her to sew when Andres was 12 years old. For the past 14 years, Andres has used her skill to raise money for charity—most recently, the Wounded Warrior Project.

After purchasing a “buy one, get one” turkey and donating them to the food bank one year, Andres decided to sell her sewing projects and donate the money to the food bank.

“There’s something I could do, and it was sewing,” she said,

Since then, Andres has organized a craft sale to benefit charity. At first, she sold her goods out of her home. The sale was mostly open to friends and family. After moving into a smaller house, Andres asked to move the sale to MeadowWood Golf Course clubhouse.

For the last three years, the proceeds have gone to the Wounded Warrior Project. It’s a cause that truly speaks to Andres.

“You see those commercials on TV and those poor young men so wounded,” Andres said. “I have two sons and feel so lucky they didn’t have to serve. It’s my way of giving back. I just want to do all I can.”

So she spends all year sewing casserole carriers, purses, hats, bedding and anything else that looks interesting. She donates all the supplies as well as her time with 100% of the profits benefitting the Wounded Warrior Project.

And if you saw her sewing room, you would understand why she is so keen to spend time in it. One wall is floor-to-ceiling shelves with fabric of all varieties. A large work table sits in the middle of the room, and a sewing machine and Serger sit atop



SPLASH PHOTO BY SARAH ROBERTSON

René Andres shows off some of the projects she’s created in her sewing room. She spends time throughout the year making items to sell to benefit Wounded Warriors.

desks facing the windows. She even has a storeroom for additional supplies adjoining her sewing room.

Andres’ friends and family pitch in too. Many make and donate jewelry, soap and bath salts, and knitted items. Andres’ husband, Bill, helps out too. This year, he made barbed wire crosses, which were quite a hit.

And it takes more help from friends and family to pull off this fete. It takes a crew of about six volunteers to set up, run the sale and clean up afterwards. The sale takes place in mid-November “to beat the holiday rush,” Andres said.

Kim Smith of Newman Lake has been helping with the sale off and on for the last 12 years. She has been a faithful volunteer for the last two years. She said her favorite parts of the event are the atmosphere, the people and René’s polar fleece blankets.

“It’s a great cause, she’s a great friend, and it’s a fun event,” she said.

Smith’s kids are a bit older now than when the sale started, which gives her a bit more time to help.

“My daughter really wants to help with the sale, but it will be a couple more years before she’s old enough,” Smith said.

As Andres and Smith will tell anyone, the

sale benefits a great cause. The Wounded Warrior Project’s vision is “to foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation’s history.”

WWP focuses on four core areas—mind, body, economic empowerment and engagement. Andres is particularly excited to think that the money she raises could be used for track chairs, prosthetics and therapy for wounded soldiers.

“To think you could give somebody an arm or a leg—wow!” Andres said.

Denis Oliverio, senior major gifts specialist for WWP, knows firsthand how much donations to WWP help wounded veterans. In 2005, he suffered a gunshot wound in the arm while in Iraq. Much of his rehabilitation is due to the efforts of WWP. After 14 surgeries, and what he calls a “rewired and rebuilt arm,” he is doing “fantastic.”

Oliverio became a volunteer for WWP—participating in peer mentoring and speaking across the nation on behalf of WWP. The program’s latest project is a collaborative effort with four major medical facilities around the country working together to provide more accessible healthcare and mental health services to veterans.

Fountain profiles:

RENÉ ANDRES

- Age**
67
- Favorite Activity**
Aside from sewing, golf
- Favorite Restaurant**
True Legends
- Favorite thing about Liberty Lake**
“I can’t imagine living anywhere else. You can always see trees, and I love the golf courses.”
- Favorite Memory of Liberty Lake**
“I remember coming out as a little kid. It was a big deal to go out to Sandy Beach. There used to be a big swing that would swing out over the lake.”

He credits Andres and her volunteers as examples of the great Americans we have in this country that hear the calling to help out.

“Their funds are fueling programs that are saving lives...it’s absolutely humbling,” he said.

It’s for men and women like Oliverio—“warriors” as they are called—that Andres is so excited to help. Her donations have been growing steadily over the years. Her first sale brought in \$1,500. This year she raised just over \$10,000.

Andres finally retired in 2012—she and her husband owned Brown Bearing on Trent for many years—so she had more time to play and sew. In fact, Andres even has a sewing room set up in her vacation home in West Yellowstone, Mont., and a friend sells her goods there year round with the proceeds going to WWP.

To learn more about WWP, visit www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

— King Crossword — Answers

G	U	L	L	A	G	M	I	S	S
A	R	E	A	A	I	R	I	D	E
G	L	A	D	I	O	L	A	L	O
		D	O	S	B	A	L	L	A
A	S	P	E	N	A	B	L	E	
G	E	A	R		G	L	A	M	R
O	A	R	B	R	A	G	S	R	O
G	L	A	C	I	E	R	S	T	A
		I	T	E	M	P	O	L	
T	R	E	B	E	K	S	A	W	
H	E	R	O		G	L	A	S	N
R	A	I	L		O	A	F	I	R
U	L	N	A		D	Y	E	E	A

COMMUNITY

Trivia Test

1. MEASUREMENTS: What does a quadricentennial represent?

2. MEDICINE: Which vitamin is essential in blood clotting?

3. U.S. STATES: Which U.S. state has a license plate that proclaims, "Land of Lincoln"?

4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which one of the seven dwarfs in the 1937 film "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" did not have a beard?

5. HISTORY: What were known as "liberty steaks" during World War II in America?

6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many limbs does a squid have?

7. LITERATURE: What is the name of the boy raised by wolves in Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book"?

8. GAMES: What is known as skeet?

9. MOVIES: How many roles did Peter Sellers play in the movie "Dr. Strangelove"?

10. FOOD AND DRINK: Which young French wine is released annually on the third Thursday in November?

— 2014 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Determining the value of children's books

'Collecting' by Larry Cox
KING FEATURES SYNDICATE

Q: I was born in 1947 and grew up reading Golden Books, Elf Books, See Saw Books and my favorites, the Story Hour series. I have started buying the ones I remember when I see them at garage sales or in shops. My problem is I have no idea of values. Can you recommend a good price guide for me? — *Darla, Columbia, Mo.*

A: Although there are several excellent guides, my personal favorite is "Warman's Children's Books: Identification & Price Guide" by Steve Santi and published by Krause Books. It has concise histories and hundreds of listings with values for many of the books issued by the major book publishers for children. Major space is devoted to Golden Books, Whitman, Rand McNally, Wonder, Treasure, Holly, Owl, Pied Piper and Star-Bright. Incidentally, the first Golden Book was "Three Little Kittens," issued in 1942 and worth about \$50 in good condition.

Q: I have a glass bowl that is marked "Quezal." I have been told it was given to a distant relative as a wedding present in 1915. Since I have never heard of Quezal glass and can't find it in any of my reference books, I hope you can help me. — *Barbara, Pine Castle, Fla.*

A: The Quezal Art Glass Decorating Company opened in Brooklyn in 1901 and closed in about 1925. I found the mark in "Miller's Antique Marks" by Judith Miller and published by Miller Books. This handy reference documents more than 6,000 marks that make it easier to identify silver, ceramics, glass and other treasures. Priced at \$9.99, it is quite a bargain.

Q: I have a partial set of sterling flatware. I am not certain of the pattern, but since I no longer use the pieces, I would like to liquidate the set. Do you have any suggestions? — *Carol, Wausau, Wis.*

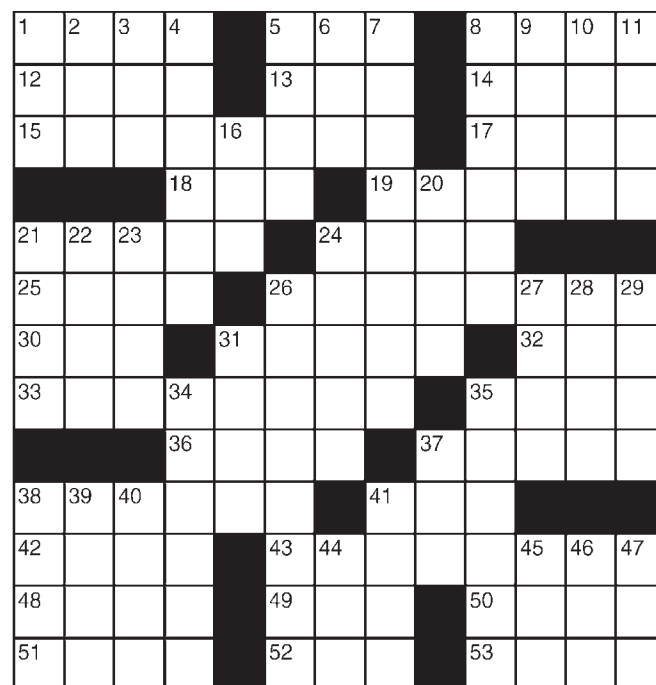
A: The Silver Queen silver company has been in business for several decades and buys and sells older sterling flatware. The company maintains an inventory of more than 6,000 patterns of active and discontinued silver patterns. Contact is 1350 West Bay Drive, Largo, FL 33770. Check out the website at www.silverqueen.com, or call 800-262-3134 for a free catalog and price list.

Write to Larry Cox in care of KFWS, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to questionsforcox@aol.com. Due to the large volume of mail he receives, Mr. Cox cannot personally answer all reader questions, nor do appraisals. Do not send any materials requiring return mail.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Sea bird
5 Trail behind
8 Not hit
12 Neighborhood
13 Melody
14 Concept
15 Iris' cousin
17 Forsaken
18 — and don'ts
19 Sentimental song
21 Colorado ski mecca
24 Competent
25 Equipment
26 1970s music genre
30 Rowing need
31 Boasts
32 Fish eggs
33 Arctic sights
35 Recording
36 Detail
37 Sea anemone, e.g.
38 "Jeopardy!" emcee
41 Witnessed
42 Medal earner
43 Gorbachev's policy
48 Bar
49 LummoX
50 Press
51 Radius neighbor



- 52 Coloring agent
53 Right on the map?
DOWN
1 Joke
2 Web address
3 Meadow
4 Firetruck need
5 Asian nation
6 Have a bug
7 Miscellaneous collections
8 "Death of a Salesman" writer
9 "American —"
10 Antitoxins
11 Beach stuff
16 Charged bit
20 Donations to the needy
21 Enthusiastic, plus
22 Close up tightly
23 Prefix with legal or normal
24 Startle
26 Zeus, for one
27 Exam format
28 Imitate
29 Retain
31 Chomp
34 Treasure site
with seven cities
35 Permanent resident
37 — de deux
38 From one end to the other
39 Actual
40 Green land
41 Secure
44 Put (down)
45 Man-mouse link
46 "Help!"
47 Stick with a kick

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Answers to Trivia Test 1. A celebration marking 400 years 2. Vitamin K 3. Illinois 4. Dopey 5. Hamburgers 6. 10 7. Mowgli 8. Trapshooting 9. Three 10. Beaujolais nouveau



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Volunteer's eighth year with FOPP still a ball

Laura Frank serves as chair for Holiday Ball

Annie Szotkowski
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

A party planner and a parent are like engineers. The science behind coordinating an annual fundraiser requires project management, communication and a love for fun.

A parent, engineer and volunteer, Laura Frank fits perfectly in her role as Friends of Pavillion Park board member and chair of FOPP's annual Holiday Ball.

Frank grew up in Michigan. She met her husband Joe Frank in Connecticut, and lived in Appleton, Wisc., before moving to Liberty Lake to be near Joe's family. After moving to Liberty Lake from the Midwest, she got to know the community by exploring the outdoors and carving time to volunteer, thanks in part to FOPP. Established by a dedicated group of volunteers in 1992, the nonprofit has established a reputation for community connectivity.

"Friends of Pavillion Park has been a driving force behind many of the community events that have helped to create this quality of life," Frank said. "It was the group's pas-

sion for building community that led me to volunteer; it is something special that I wanted to be a part of."

In addition to being a FOPP board member, she is the event chair for the Holiday Ball, the annual FOPP fundraiser held at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane.

"Without her leadership, organization and passion, FOPP could not have run the ball so successfully," David Himebaugh, FOPP vice president, said. "Her personal touch makes it an elegant event."

Frank gives credit to the volunteers who find their niche to contribute and work together. She said many of them come back to their roles each year.

"The planning is down to a science now thanks to the amazing group of volunteers who work on the holiday ball committee," Frank said.

Ultimately, putting together the ball is about having a good time.

"We put less focus on fundraising because we want to celebrate our community," Frank said. "This is a special place to live."

While chairing the Holiday Ball is her primary responsibility, Frank is involved in a breadth of the nonprofit's activities such



Laura Frank, pictured here at a past Holiday Ball with husband Joe Frank, serves as an active board member and volunteer with Friends of Pavillion Park.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

profiles:

LAURA FRANK

Age
34

Family

Husband, Joe; three children

Occupation

Project engineer at Kaiser Aluminum

Years volunteering with FOPP

Eight

Favorite part about Holiday Ball

Bringing the community together and seeing people have a great time

Recommended winter activity

Ice skating on the lake followed by hot cocoa

as the annual Summer Festival movie series and concert performances at local parks and helping with the Liberty Lake Loop Fun Run. She also coordinates other pocket park concerts and the Montana Shakespeare in the Park, an amateur acting company that brings Shakespeare plays to rural communities. All of these activities cumulate on Labor Day weekend with the Spokane Symphony's annual concert.

She does this, in part, to show her children that there are always opportunities to give back and be active in the community.

"I feel that this is a great opportunity to teach them citizenship and community engagement," she said. "I love that FOPP provides opportunities for family activities at no cost."

Besides volunteering and working, Frank enjoys the outdoors surrounding Liberty Lake by biking, hiking and skiing.

"I believe that the activities and quality of life in Liberty Lake is what attracts both

businesses and families to move into our community," Frank said. "We are thrilled to be able to bring these free admission events to the Liberty Lake community."

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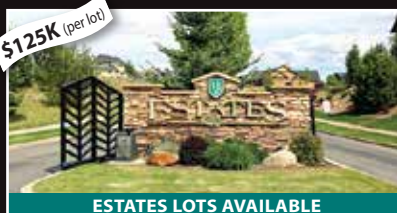
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Liberty Lake

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COMMUNITY

Deck the Halls: Holiday festivities brighten community

By Treva Lind
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

With the arrival of winter's frost, the Liberty Lake community offers plenty of holiday activities during December to warm up with some seasonal cheer.

The city's Winter Festival, the Friends of Pavillion Park's Holiday Ball, a theater production and other festive happenings arrive to brighten the month's shorter days.

First off, circle the calendar on Dec. 5 for free family-friendly events at the city's Winter Festival Tree Lighting Ceremony, scheduled from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at or near City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive. Activities include chestnut roasting, arts and crafts for kids, live music and tours of Santa's Workshop.

The tree lighting is set for 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. Before then, kids who bring canned food for a community food drive will be entered into a drawing for a chance to light the tree. Bring cameras to take pictures with Santa from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. A professional photographer also will be available.

Live music will be provided by the Liberty Lake Elementary School K-Kids, led by Julie Morgan, as well as the CVHS A Cappella Choir, led by Mike Eliott, said Michelle Griffin, Liberty Lake's parks and recreation coordinator. Vendor booths also will offer games and prizes for children.

"All the activities are free, and it is a great way to start off the holiday season," Griffin said.

Other city events include a hayride to see the holiday lights and Snowgusta mini golf. The nighttime mini golf course opens at the tree lighting event but will be available the remainder of December. People are encouraged to put on earmuffs, gloves and glow sticks for play. Golf balls and equipment will be available at City Hall, Griffin said.

If snow covers the ground, people can bring sleds to the Trailhead Golf Course at the south side of the driving range fence for sledding from November to February. Parents are encouraged to accompany children.

The city also offers a Santa Paws photo contest for free to the public. Bring a picture of kitty or pup in costume to City Hall before Dec. 5. Accepted photos will be on display during the tree-lighting ceremony and remain up through December.

The community's annual canned food drive runs the entire month of December to benefit 2nd Harvest Food Bank. In addition to City Hall, other drop-off sites include the Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission, and Trailhead Golf Course, 1102 N. Liberty Lake Road.

Another activity open to residents is the city's free home decorating contest with the winner chosen by Mayor Steve Peterson. Homeowners simply need to decorate their residences for the holiday season and submit by Dec. 5 a registration form available on the city's website. All registered homes will be added to the Christmas Light Tour list, also to be posted on the city's website.

Dec. 6 Holiday Ball

Always a class act, the Holiday Ball is Friends of Pavillion Park's sole fundraiser for putting on the summer festival series at the park. People are encouraged to gather groups of friends and neighbors to attend the ball as a way to support and celebrate the community.

Tickets may still be available to attend the Dec. 6 event. Tickets, at \$75 per person, can be purchased on the group's website, www.pavillionpark.org, or by mailing a check to P.O. Box 325, Liberty Lake, WA 99019.

Held at The Davenport Hotel, this year's event begins at 5 p.m. The formal evening consists of a

champagne reception with hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auctions, plated dinner and live music and dancing until midnight. Tom Sherry will serve as master of ceremonies.

Liberty Lake resident Jimi Finn and his band will perform live music after the auction.

The silent auction will include both traditional bid items as well as larger-themed items in a raffle. Items include a trip to Mexico, a week vacation in a Maui beach-front condo, an iPad and brewery tour.

People and businesses also can support the Holiday Ball by making a donation, becoming a table sponsor or volunteering. For more information on getting involved, contact Laura Frank, Holiday Ball Committee chair, at pavillionpark@yahoo.com or 863-8645. To offer last-minute auction items, contact Sara Gile at sara.gile@yahoo.com

The Davenport also offers a special room rate for attendees making reservations. Tuxedo Gallery will make a donation for customers renting a tux for the Ball.

Holiday play

Families also can venture out to Liberty Lake Community Theatre to enjoy a holiday-themed play, "Stocking Stuffers." Curtain times include 7 p.m. on Dec. 11-12 and 18-20, as well as at 2 p.m. on Dec. 13 and 20. Tickets are \$12.

The play has short scenes to create a full evening of family fun. Act 1 Uncle Sam, Easter Bunny, Cupid, Ezekiel the Pilgrim and Hagatha the Witch all plotting how to steal the attention from Santa and his holiday. For more fun, two female elves discuss their future goals and test a variety of water guns straight out at the audience.

The second act offers several scenes ranging from a fast-talking Little Matchgirl selling her wares in downtown New York, to the

See FESTIVITIES, page 25



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Coordinated Care of Spokane is sponsoring Snowgusta mini golf again this year near City Hall. It is open during the month of December, and glow balls and clubs are available at City Hall.

COMMUNITY



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The 17th annual Holiday Ball will include a night of dancing along with silent and live auctions. The Dec. 6 event is the primary fundraiser for Friends of Pavillion Park, the nonprofit that supports the summer concerts, movies and activities that take place in Liberty Lake’s parks each summer.

FESTIVITIES

Continued from page 24

trial of two reindeers who “ran over grand-
ma,” and a surprise appearance by Santa
himself. When all scenes come together, the
theatre promises an ending for audiences to
experience Christmas like never before.

Luminarias

The tradition of luminarias, sold as a
fundraiser to line driveways, pathways and
patios on Christmas Eve, has spread to

Liberty Lake.
The Liberty Lake Community Theatre has
taken on this project to help fund its many
events: plays, musicals, readers theater and
workshops for children, said Charmaine Pe-
tersen, a fundraiser organizer.
People can purchase the ready-to-light
luminarias for \$15 per dozen from the the-
atre, by Dec. 21 at the latest, for delivery to
doorsteps before Christmas Eve. To place
orders, contact Petersen at charmainepeter-
son@mac.com or 255-1400. Another con-
tact is Charlotte DiCicco at 251-9150.

Liberty Lake
Community
Theatre will
present “Stock-
ing Stuffers”
during two
weekends in
December. The
family-friendly
show features
short holiday
scenes to help
the audience
experience
Christmas like
never before.



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the christmas experience

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Summer bash raised funds for area athletics

By Karen Johnson

LIBERTY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

How far would you travel to feast at a tender, juicy beef BBQ on a gorgeous summer day at a beautiful lake . . . where entertainment and activities were endless . . . where fellow guests shared your passions and included friends, acquaintances, and often, professional athletes? This was the annual Athletic Round Table's summertime Christmas party at Liberty Lake!

Spokane's fun-loving Athletic Round Table, led by Joe Albi, started the annual Christmas party as a gag in 1937 at Hayden Lake. But the gag turned out to be a whopping success. And the following year, it flourished once again—and for many years thereafter—at Liberty Lake. The Spokane Daily Chronicle reported that at 1938's party, "Every one of the 1,200 persons, 15 ducks, a pig, a shetland pony and a non-descript dog, had a whale of a time." They were also well-fed, consuming around 700 pounds of barbecued meat plus other picnic items.

A.R.T.'s summertime Christmas party became known as a rolling snowball gathering weight that could not be stopped. The Christmas parties were exclusive to A.R.T. members and their wives or lady friends as well as specially invited guests. Some years the club hosted out-of-town groups such as the contestants and officials of the national Public Links Tournament when it was held at Indian Canyon in 1941. The 1942 Christmas party kicked off a week-long social schedule honoring golfers in the Western Golf Association championships playing at Manito Golf and Country Club. In 1948 Spokane hosted the national Affiliated Advertising Agencies' annual meeting which strategically played into A.R.T.'s hands as several invited national advertising repre-

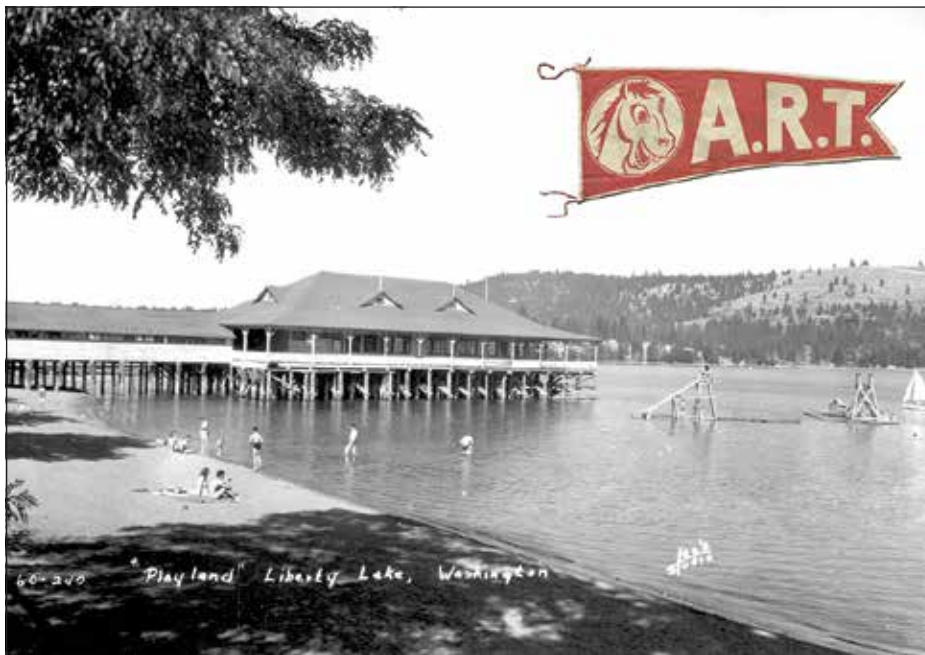


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF LIBERTY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For many years the A.R.T. Summer Christmas Party was held at Liberty Lake Park and its dance Pavillion, shown in this circa 1940 photo.

sentatives became their perfect publicity opportunity.

The icing on the 1939 Christmas cake at Liberty Lake was Turk Edwards, former Washington State College football star-turned-captain of the NFL's Washington Redskins. He accepted the invitation to come to the summer Christmas party along with, according to the Spokesman Review, "five tons of ravenous professional football players" (Redskins teammates), an entourage of Washington D.C. newspaper correspondents, and the Round Table's softball team. That year the A.R.T. cuisine director added two extra-fat steers to the 10 fat ones they ordinarily served to their now typical headcount of 2,000. The 12 steers of tender beef filled a 10 foot deep by 30 foot long pit and then were roasted for 48 hours "to a savory tenderness." (The pit reportedly expanded later to only 8 feet deep but 60 feet long.) The seven-course dinner was served off long tables set up on the lawn in front of

the Dance Pavillion which jutted out over the water at the Liberty Lake Park. Albi once quipped that, "The Dance Pavillion and most of the lake front has been reserved for the 2,000 or more guests that are expected...The crowd will be able to splash gravy for miles around...and we're going to have plenty of gravy."

Activities through the years included capturing a greasy pig on the sandy beach, clown stunts set up by a local water ski expert, diving and water-ski exhibitions, and a taffy pull overseen by a local dentist. Santa Claus donned his suit and water skied behind an inflated reindeer. There were baby shows and bathing beauty shows. Though talking politics was taboo at the parties, they did spotlight a "medicine show" featuring politicians (including a U.S. Senatorial candidate and a governor) who promised anything and everything. Entertainment was provided by singers, orchestras and dance bands including the locally-loved Dutch

Groshoff Band. In 1948 the Christmas crowd enjoyed the Chicagoland Music Festival competition winner, Phil Crosbie, from Spokane. One thing that never changed was the invited presence of the Salvation Army bell-ringing lassie with her Christmas pot. The Round Tablers were known to be very generous, and if they didn't give enough, the A.R.T. itself would fill the pot a little fuller.

One interesting story came from 1948 when the Athletic Round Table was trying to raise money to build a \$750,000 outdoor stadium in Spokane. They'd already donated \$250,000 to be matched by other clubs and civic organizations. Then the famous crooner Bing Crosby, a Round Table member himself, visited his hometown Spokane and he became very enthusiastic about the stadium project. He worked with A.R.T. leaders to finalize details to help raise funds: Crosby would return in September with his Hollywood troupe and his famous radio show, Bing Crosby's Philco Hour, would be taped live on stage at Spokane's beautiful downtown Post Theater. He would put on two shows—the first an informal matinee/rehearsal, and the second, a "gala affair" that evening to be transcribed for radio broadcast. All proceeds from both shows would be donated to the stadium fund. This announcement was made to a cheering crowd at the 12th annual A.R.T. Christmas party at Liberty Lake, the one coincidentally attended by the national Affiliated Advertising Agencies' representatives. It was a huge boost for the stadium fund as well as provided highly desirable publicity in the nation's public eye. The stadium became a reality two short years later; it was built in under four months.

This wild and crazy, civically-minded A.R.T. group did many zany things to contribute to our area, but it has been said that the Round Tablers would rather lose an arm or a leg than to miss the annual Christmas party at Liberty Lake.

Karen Johnson has lived in Liberty Lake most of her life. She is a board member with the Liberty Lake Historical Society.

EVENTS, COMPETITIONS AND ACTIVITIES

From the Liberty Lake Historical Society, a 2014 monthly series

- JANUARY: Ice Skating
- FEBRUARY: Parade of Mermaid Competitions
- MARCH: Opening Day of Fishing
- APRIL: Dancing
- MAY: Water Competitions
- JUNE: Liberty Lake Amateur
- JULY: All-Valley Picnics
- AUGUST: Dutch Jake Picnics
- SEPTEMBER: Hydroplane Races
- OCTOBER: Baseball Games
- NOVEMBER: Liberty Lake and Football
- DECEMBER: A.R.T.'s Christmas in July

DID YOU KNOW?

- Joe Albi was founder and "the ever-and-forever" 42-year president of the A.R.T. It was a fun-loving fundraising group that targeted the expansion of sports in the Spokane area. The stadium project they funded was named Memorial Stadium in 1950, but it was renamed Joe Albi Stadium in 1962, just a few weeks before Albi died of Lou Gehrig's disease. The A.R.T. brought more than \$6.5 million into Spokane to promote athletic events and scholarships.
- 1939 wasn't the only year a repre-

sentative of the Washington Redskins showed up in sunny Liberty Lake for the annual Christmas party. Former owner and president of the Redskins, George Preston Marshall, graced the shores of Liberty Lake for a summer A.R.T. Christmas party, and Turk Edwards returned a few years later and was targeted for fattening up after he'd dropped 25 pounds from his normal 300-pound frame.

- In July of 1941, Christmas cards (invitations) were mailed out with caricatures of A.R.T. members sketched on a postcard of the Liberty Lake Pavillion.
- The unstoppable Christmas in July

party stopped for three years from 1943-45, possibly due to WWII.

- Dutch Groshoff, a popular Spokane band leader, banjo player and entertainer, was well-known at Liberty Lake. He and his orchestra were featured on the national Philco Hour with his friend and schoolmate Bing Crosby when it was broadcast from the Post Theater in Spokane. Many years earlier in 1925, Groshoff had turned down an opportunity to accompany Bing in California.
- The Round Table once sponsored a coaches' moaning contest where tears cost a thousand bucks a drop!



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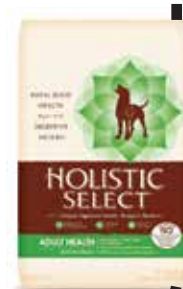
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A new face checks in at library

By Mary Kate Koch
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

As a child and into high school and college, roaming the aisles of the local library was Shardé Mills' happy place. Mills is turning her happy place into her workplace as the newly hired adult and reference services position at the Liberty Lake Municipal Library.

"It was actually a little funny," Mills said. "As a child, whenever my brother and I would get in trouble, he would be sent to his room without TV or video games, and I was sent to my room and not allowed to read. I was that kind of kid."

According to Library Director Pamela Mogen, Mills was the first choice for the position out of a field of six candidates because of her experience, skills and enthusiasm.

Mills completed her graduate degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Washington's Information School. During her time in graduate school, Mills also completed a summer internship at the Seattle Public Library and worked for two years at the Suzzallo and Allen Libraries. Throughout this past year, Mills has worked at the University of

Washington Bothell and Cascadia College, teaching information literacy skills and collecting resources for the community.

Becoming a librarian was always a career path on Mills' mind because of its dedication to helping people access information, promoting education and community involvement. Mills emphasized that she especially enjoyed library events encouraging community involvement, particularly craft and movie nights.



MILLS

"I believe the library plays a critical role in any community, mostly functioning as a community center that provides sought after resources and opportunities for community engagement," Mills said. "The library is a wonderful place where anyone can gather for any number of reasons. Not only that, it provides access to resources, technology, and information that are essential for enhancing people's lives."

Mills is most looking forward to getting to know the Liberty Lake community when she starts her new position. Although she has enjoyed the research and instruction aspects of working at academic libraries, Mills is excited to engage in the more creative side of being a librarian. Mogen stated that Mills will gradually take over the duties of former librarian Dan Pringle, including reader's advisory, the information desk, programming, collection development and com-

munity outreach.

A Spokane native, Mills was particularly glad to find an open position in Liberty Lake.

"I grew up in Spokane, but have been living on the west side of the state for a few years and it felt like it was time to come home," Mills said. "Also, growing up in Spokane, I have always heard great things about Liberty Lake. Everyone seems to really enjoy living there. The library is specifically for the people of Liberty Lake, which means there is a real opportunity to provide services tailored to the interests, tastes and needs of the people who use and depend on the library."

An official start date at the Liberty Lake Municipal Library has not been set for Mills. According to Mogen, Mills will start either the first or second week of December.

'Hour of Code' comes to library during Computer Education Week

The Hour of Code is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics. Ages 5 to 105 can take part in one of two sessions on Dec. 8 or Dec. 11 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission.

Watch for details on the library's Facebook page or in the library newsletter.

Book Review

Great Christmas ideas for your tween or teen



By Melanie Boerner
LIBERTY LAKE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

Consider the following selections when shopping for a present for an older child or youth.

"Wonder"

By R.J. Palacio

For tweens (grades 4-7)

August "Auggie" Pullman was born with a rare facial anomaly and has been home

schooled all his life because of it, until now. Auggie is starting fifth grade and wants to be treated like everyone else, but knows he won't. Told from several different perspectives, the story of Auggie's first year in a mainstream school is sad, funny and touching... and no one is the same after it.

A book that will resonate with readers and teach a lesson in humility and kindness, "Wonder" is a gem of a novel. Auggie is an endearing character who just wants to be accepted, with the same likes and dislikes of many 10-year-old boys. While Palacio writes with conviction and purpose, educating readers on the effects of bullying, it's not a blatant or irritating lesson. You feel for her characters and hold a vested interest in them throughout the story. Every child, teen and adult should read this novel!

"Leviathan"

By Scott Westerfeld with illustrations by Keith Thompson

For young adults (grades 7 and up)

In an alternate history, Europe is heading towards a World War. The Austro-

Hungarians, with their Clanker war machines, are feuding with the British Darwinists and their fabricated animal weaponry. The story follows Aleksandar Ferdinand, the newly orphaned prince of Austro-Hungary, who is on the run and in hiding from his own subjects determined to take his throne. Deryn Sharp, who has just joined the British Air Service and is praying no one finds out she's a girl, and the prince cross paths and find themselves aboard the airship Leviathan, where they learn the line between ally and enemy is very blurred.

Steampunk is part of a growing niche in the sci-fi genre and this novel is a great addition to the culture. A great read for both boys and girls, it has a little history, a little romance and a lot of adventure. The end leaves you wanting more, which is good since "Leviathan" is the first in a trilogy. Thompson's beautiful illustrations lend well to Westerfeld's unique imaginary world.

Melanie Boerner is children's and youth services librarian at the Liberty Lake Municipal Library.

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STEP 2: On Christmas Eve, line your driveway, walks, porch steps or other outdoor areas with the luminarias, and light up your neighborhood! (Tip: Luminarias are traditionally placed two to three feet apart to maximize visual impact.)

STEP 3: Take pride in knowing you are supporting worthwhile local causes. All proceeds benefit the Liberty Lake Community Theatre.

FOR MORE

INFORMATION:

Contact Charmaine Peterson at charmainepeterson@mac.com or 255-1400, Charlotte DiCicco at 251-9150, or visit www.libertylaketheatre.com

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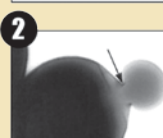
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Then and now: Holiday Hills



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Karissa Griffiths, 16, shared a photo she took holding a picture of her dad, Dave Griffiths, in a bike race on Holiday Hills in 1978. She took it at the same location, which is right behind the Parkside neighborhood in Legacy Ridge.

Rake, then break



Members of Boy Scout Troop 413 take a break at St. Joseph's Church in Otis Orchards after a yard clean-up day.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

PJ storytime at the library



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Kids were invited to bring their teddy bears along for a November night of stories and songs. The bears had the option of spending the night in the library where they had various adventures before their owners returned in the morning.



Fans of "Frozen" gathered at the Liberty Lake Municipal Library Nov. 13 for a sing-a-long, snacks, stories and crafts along the theme of the popular movie.



Splash Travels



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Liberty Lake residents Dan and Terri Schmarr toured the East Coast before flying to Bermuda to watch the PGA Grand Slam of Golf. Hurricane Gonzalo was a direct hit over the island, so they were thankful that everyone survived, including The Splash.

Gatsby girls give back



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Hannah Windhorn and Aarika Merrill hosted a Gatsby-themed party on Nov. 8 at the Spokane Valley Library in honor of their 16th birthdays. In lieu of gifts, they requested party-goers bring toys for kids who receive care at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, which they dropped off at the hospital after the event.



Local Lens

Share your snapshots for The Splash's photo page. Email photos@libertylakesplash.com with scenes from around town, community events and Splash Travels.

LOCAL LENS

Halloween festivities



Costumed kids made spooky picture frames and played games during the annual Halloween party hosted by The Liberty Lake Municipal Library.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Left: Mike Walsh said he enjoyed his tenth year of giving out candy with his daughter, Jenni Tomlinson, in Liberty Lake on Halloween.

Below: Several sixth grade students attended the Greenacres Middle School Halloween dance in October.



Shutterbug snapshots



Dixie Banta took this shot on Nov. 1 looking west on Maxwell Avenue. She described the sky as somewhat surreal in its beauty and spectacular colors.



Michael Hassett photographed a northern flicker on Trailhead Golf Course in October and a great horned owl behind Legacy Ridge on a bitter cold morning in November.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

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Merry
Christmas



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Clinic aims to provide optimal health

By Annie Szotkowski
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Two months ago, Balanced Wellness Medical Clinic opened its doors to the Liberty Lake community, providing services that focus on balancing hormones to stabilize health for patients between the ages of 30 and 75.

An active outdoors woman and Coeur d'Alene native, owner Jan Nelson aims to improve the function of the body by counseling patients on lifestyle changes along with hormonal, adrenal and gut therapies.

"Once people balance their hormones out, they feel they have their life back," Nelson said.

The clinic is operated by Nelson and her office manager, Cristin Kynett. Nelson's approach is designed to engage with patients in a way that is personal, customized and individualized.

"Our goal is to provide optimal health," said Nelson, "not just say, 'Okay, here's a pill.'"

Both men and women have hormonal imbalances and adrenal dysfunction as they age, Nelson said, and they are not being tested by a lot of primary care practices. As people grow older, hormone levels fluctuate

and/or decline due to age, stress and menopause.

Nelson's clinic provides treatments including bio-identical hormone replacement therapy (BHRT). According to The New England Journal of Medicine, BHRT replaces the hormones that begin to decline typically at age 30 and is slated as a safer and more effective method than conventional therapy. The clinic's treatments, including BHRT, work to rebalance hormonal levels as well as promote gastrointestinal and adrenal health. In addition, the clinic provides services such as pellet therapy, botox and dermal fillers.

Nelson returned to school after working as a hospitalist caring for acute and chronic illnesses by enrolling in classes at the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine in Boca Raton, Fla. Nelson said she continued her education to become a nurse practitioner in order to play a more active role in promoting healthier lifestyles.

Nelson said her central location between Spokane and Coeur d'Alene helps her provide services for several people.

"You look at an area you can service people from different directions," she said.

Nelson hopes the business will help



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Balanced Wellness Medical Clinic recently opened in Liberty Lake. The clinic offers hormone replacement therapy, anti-aging techniques and preventative health consulting.

people live a happy and more productive life. Her goals for the clinic are to expand to include a multi-disciplinary approach to overall wellness.

"In the future, I'd love to move to a larger location to bring on other specialties," she said.

FOR MORE

Balanced Wellness Medical Clinic is located at 1328 N. Stanford Lane, suite 101. The clinic's hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

For more, call 919-4575, email jnelson@balancedwellnessmed.com or go to www.balancedwellnessmed.com.

In Biz

Crossfit Gym to open Dec. 3

A new Crossfit Gym is scheduled to open Dec. 3 in the back of the Proto building, 22808 E. Appleway, suite C. The public is invited to meet the coaches and check out the gym. Interested people can also sign up in December to receive a special introductory rate.

For more, go to www.crossfitlibertylake.com or call 893-4115.

Urgent Care relocates

The Liberty Lake Rockwood Urgent Care Center recently relocated into the Rockwood Liberty Lake Clinic at 1326 N. Stanford Lane.

Urgent Care Center hours will remain the same: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends. For more, visit www.rockwoodclinic.com.

OpenEye employees give to Second Harvest

Over the course of three days this fall, employees at Liberty Lake's OpenEye stepped up to help those less fortunate.

OpenEye donated \$260 from employee donations and \$260 from a company match for a total of \$520 to Second Harvest Food Bank. In addition to the cash, the firm's employees filled two large collection boxes with non-perishable food items.

"I grew up dirt poor, not knowing it until I look back now," OpenEye Systems Engineer Mike Dixon said in a press release. "We rode bikes to gather pop bottles for penny cash, and split candy bars three ways for dessert. Now I can help those in need and make a difference if possible."

OpenEye, an innovator in the business of designing and manufacturing physical security products and software solutions, made these contributions as part of its commitment to serve the Spokane-area community with hands-on service projects and charity drives throughout the year.

Greenstone, Hay J's receive Festival of Homes awards

Greenstone Homes tied for first in two categories in the 2014 People's Choice Award during this year's 10th Anniversary of the Fall Festival of Home. Greenstone's home at 1939 N Holl Blvd. tied for first with Markham Homes in the \$200,000-224,999 category. In addition, the Greenstone home at 19840 E. Indiana Ave. also tied with Monogram Homes in the \$225,000-259,999 category.

A number of the homes from the show have sold, and all homes in the Festival are still featured at www.SpokaneFestivalofHomes.com.

Premiering during this Fall's Festival of Home, the Festival of Chefs proved to be

a successful addition to the event. Chefs Jeramie Entner and Patrick Fehser of Liberty Lake's Hay J's Bistro won the Festival of Chefs People's Choice Award out of nine restaurants featured.

Funds raised during the event allowed Spokane Home Builders Association to donate \$1,000 to the Women & Children's Free Restaurant.

Safeway partners with STA to sell bus passes

Spokane Transit Authority recently announced its plans to provide new locations to purchase STA bus passes including Safeway stores.

Under the partnership, Safeway will sell adult, youth and reduced fare 31-day bus passes at many area locations including the store at 1233 N. Liberty Lake Road.

There is no additional fee for purchasing bus passes at these locations. All other STA bus passes, including para-transit passes, must be purchased at either the STA Plaza, 701 W. Riverside Avenue; STA's office at 1229 W. Boone Avenue; or online at www.spokanetransit.com.

Chamber announces leadership team

The 2015 leadership team for the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce was announced at the Chamber's annual

meeting in November.

The officers nominated and approved by the board include Denny York of Fairmount Holdings, chair; Ben Small of Central Valley School District, chair elect; Julie Van Wormer of ALSC Architects and Jeff Adams of Horizon Credit Union, vice chairs; Brain Mansfield of Walmart, secretary; Mike Baker of Modern Electric, treasurer; Barry Baker of Baker Construction, past chair; and Erica Young of Anderson Peretti, member at large.

For more information, go to www.spokanevalleychamber.org.

Telect consolidates operations

Telect recently announced that it will consolidate its Plano, Texas, operations into Liberty Lake. A press release stated that Telect has identified a local property that will be the new home for the company's USA headquarters, operations and customer fulfillment center.

The consolidation will allow Telect to create a "stronger and more variable cost model, as well as centralize capabilities to better meet customer expectations," the release said.

For more, go to www.telect.com.

In Biz features Liberty Lake-connected business items. Contact The Splash with business news at editor@libertylakesplash.com.

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CV soccer battles on

By Mike Vlahovich
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Andres Monrroy was down in the mouth. The coach of Central Valley’s defending state soccer champions had just watched his veteran team knocked off by Mead for the Greater Spokane League district title.

They’d need four successive victories, loser out contests all, if they were to return to the state playoffs and reach the State 4A semifinals again.

“Our season’s not over yet, but it’s going to be a challenge,” Monrroy had said following the lackluster effort in their loss. “This will show the character of our team.”

Not surprisingly, the Bears — who returned their championship lineup nearly intact — rose to the challenge. Stunning, however, was how they returned to the scene of their finest hour (before this was published their fate is already determined).

CV cut a swath through the opposition, dominating by a combined score of 14-1, an unusually high number of goals considering it came in the post season.

National age group team member and sophomore Kelsey Turnbow accounted for eight of the scores, and the defense did the rest during shutout victories over University, 3-0; Mead, 4-0, in the rematch for a state berth; and West Valley Yakima, 1-0, to reach the Final Four. The team’s first state tournament victory came over Snohomish, 6-1.

“It all started with the way we played in the district championship,” Monrroy said.

He called a meeting with the seniors and told them he had been disappointed with

the effort. He then challenged them, saying they were one of the best teams in state, were the defending champions and they needed to play that way.

“The results speak for themselves,” Monrroy said. “The defense has been a complete effort from Chloe Sholtz in goal to our defenders allowing one goal and the offense scoring 14. It all started with the seniors. From that point in time, I was very proud with the way they responded.”

The Bears played determined, but loose. They were smiling and talking on bus trips.

“They never played tight,” Monrroy said. “They work hard, compete, but they also have fun.”

Eight starters returned from last year: Turnbow and Alaina Bates at forward; midfielders Megan Dimmler, Katie Van Etten, Kasey Ames and Cassie Fielding, who also doubled on defense; defenders McKenna Stocker and Erica Casey. A ninth, Taryn Miller, is injured. Senior

Scholtz took over in goal.

Publications on the west side of Washington ranked them between first and fourth all season long.

The Bears entered the state semifinals with an 18-2 record. Twelve of their wins were by shutout, and they allowed one goal in five others. The other loss was 2-1 to Mt. Spokane in the GSL opener.

Turnbow had scored 26 goals. Ames added six. Dimmler, Fielding and freshman Kaelyn Barnes all had four.

“As a coach, I thought we could get back to the final four,” Monrroy said. “I was also nervous how well they’d respond.”

Sometimes, he added, a state championship team might rest on its laurels. With only four seniors graduated, the odds of a return trip were good.

“I feel they (are) better players since last year,” he said. “We’re one of the best teams in the state of Washington. And we play like it.”

Boo Ball champs



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The 4th grade girls team NBC Camps Synergy went undefeated to win the AAU Boo Ball Classic on Nov. 1-2. Pictured are Josie Miller, Talia Emmerson, Romy Robinson, Lizzy Gresch, Grace Kalua, Alex Taylor, Teagan Colvin, Mia Decaro, Malia Ota and Libby Awbery. Coach Chris Colvin is behind the girls.

Finishing the fall season



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The U8 SC Shadow boys soccer team wrapped up their fall season Nov. 1. Pictured are (top row) **Preston Rothrock**, Cooper Sides, Daimon Duran, **Coach Dan Duer**, **Brock Duer**, **Joshua Parker**, **Kellen Hossack**; (bottom row) **Damian Drew**, Connor Simonds, Cooper Love, **Kellan Long** and Brayden Allen. Liberty Lake residents are highlighted in bold.

Top runner



SUBMITTED PHOTO

In the fall, Damon Sheneman was named the cross country athlete of the year for Greenacres Middle School. The Liberty Lake resident is in eighth grade.

Costumed club



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Many members of the Liberty Lake Running Club dressed up for their 3-mile run on Oct. 30.

Pre-race party



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Central Valley girls cross country team enjoyed a pasta feed before their last GSL race this fall.

An overcomer



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tom Brubaker, who was featured in a July 2012 Splash story about his battle with cancer, recently earned a T-shirt after his sixth run with the Liberty Lake Running Club.

SPORTS

An open letter to Santa



By Chad Kimberley
SPLASH COLUMN

Dear Santa or St. Nicholas or Kris Kringle (or any other name you would prefer),

I am writing to you because I am desperate. I have been a sports fan since early in life when you gave me the starting lineup figures of Ryne Sandberg and Andre Dawson, my first complete set of Topps football cards, and the Louisville Slugger with my own name engraved into the barrel. I also greatly appreciated the William Perry football jersey even though I would have had to spend about five straight months in my refrigerator to ever fit into the jersey.

Most years I was never disappointed. And then I got a bit older and like every cheesy made-for-television or straight-to-DVD movie that will be coming out over the next few weeks, I stopped believing in the whole Santa wants to give me gifts because I made it onto the nice list.

But now, as I mentioned in my opening remarks to you, I am desperate. I have become a long suffering sports fan. My teams just can't seem to get over the hump and compete consistently for titles and championships. Seriously, I would be okay with just getting to the playoffs for a few years running. No, actually I want the championship.

So I am going to suspend my reality for a few moments as I craft this letter and lay out my personal sporting requests for this upcoming Christmas season. And before I continue, I do want you to know I have cleaned out my chimney, and this year, I will not eat the cookies my kids lay out on the kitchen table for you — I will actually leave them for you.

Here we go.

I would like to have two **Chicago Cubs World Series tickets** placed lovingly in my stocking this year. Yes, this of course presumes that you have power over the Billy Goat, Black Cat, and Steve Bartman curses. I would prefer front row bleacher tickets but would also accept directly behind the home dugout seats. If it would not be too much to ask, I would also like these to be Game 4 of a presumed four-game sweep (I don't think I could handle the stress of a seven-game series).

Can I please have an **Iowa Hawkeyes Final Four sweatshirt**? I love March Madness, as you know, and I am sick and tired of never seeing my Hawkeyes make the dance, or when they do, they seldom get beyond the first or second round. But I

don't want to be selfish this year, so I will gladly welcome Gonzaga and Washington State to join us at the Final Four. Now I am fully aware that my Hawkeyes have won 23 NCAA titles in wrestling but c'mon, it is wrestling. I need some basketball love.

I want a **Chicago Bears retro Mike Singletary jersey**. I would also like to have Mike Singletary and the rest of the Super Bowl Shuffling Bears back up nearly 30 years of life so that my team can actually have a defense once again. As I write this letter, my Bears have given up back-to-back games of over 50 points. They even gave up a franchise-record 42 points in the first half of their most recent loss. I am not even going to ask for a Super Bowl win as many of my Seahawk-loving neighbors must have asked for last Christmas season. I just want a defense.

Being how this is the Christmas season, I want to make sure I am spreading goodwill (and also modeling enough selflessness so you will be more willing to fulfill my above Christmas wishes), so I won't ask for the Iowa Hawkeyes NCAA football championship helmet that can be placed in my office, the multiple knee, ankle, hamstring, and foot braces that I can loan out to the perpetually injured Derrick Rose of the Chicago Bulls, or the blue and white scissors I would like to have to cut down the nets at the end of the high school season for my Freeman Scottie girls basketball team.

Instead, I would like to request a few gifts for my friends and neighbors in Liberty Lake. How about a **large dump truck full of sand** that can be deposited near the new Town Square for the future sand volleyball courts that would make a great addition to town. Normally, I do not ask for straight cash, but it would be great if you could send **some donation dollars to the Fallen Heroes Circuit Course** as they continue to honor veterans and create exercise stations throughout Liberty Lake. Finally, I would request **120 yards of field turf** to be placed out at Rocky Hill Park that can be used for the many soccer and football teams that try to practice on every square inch of grass that is available on a given day.

I appreciate your consideration of all these requests and if your reindeer are not able to handle the many presents (as I would imagine the sand and field turf could be a tad heavy), I would encourage you to keep it simple and mail me the World Series tickets and the donation to the Fallen Heroes.

Hoping to believe again,
Chad

Chad Kimberley is a local teacher and coach. He lives with his family in Liberty Lake.

CV claims school's first state volleyball trophy



By Mike Vlahovich
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Central Valley's unprecedented volleyball season played out in stages, a virtual climb up the ladder of success, if you will.

The initial rung was the Bears' first Greater Spokane League championship.

The next rung was their first GSL district title.

The third rung featured their first regional crown.

And while they didn't make it all the way to the top, the final rung of upward mobility resulted in Central Valley's first-ever volleyball state trophy, eighth place with a 2-2 record.

And bad breaks bit CV in the first match of the tourney, so who knows how much higher they might have climbed?

CV lost its opening day encounter with Battle Ground in five games, decided in an agonizing 16-14 fifth set. The Bears fell behind 25-16, 25-13, then began to click. They rallied with 25-23 and 25-15 before dropping the tie-breaker.

There followed with a 25-15, 25-16, 22-25, 27-25 win over Snohomish and a 26-24, 25-22, 22-25, 25-17 triumph over Snohomish and Skyline to assure a top-eight finish. Gig Harbor beat them in four sets in the match for seventh and eighth.

Senior **Kazlyn Roullier**, CV's power hitter, led the team in kills twice in the first three matches. Junior **Keann White** had 14 against Skyline.

Fellow junior **Jade Rockwood** averaged more than 20 assists per match and had 11 digs against Battleground. **Kara Nitteberg** had an amazing 23 service aces against Battle Ground and had a team high 21 and 9 digs against Skyline and Snohomish. **Sasha Montgomery**, Roullier and Nitteberg will be seniors missed, but the Bears also bring back several others who had major contributions at state, including White and the Rockwood sisters, Jade and **Meghan**.

CV finished the year 28-3. With two straight state trips under their belts,

wouldn't a three-peat and second trophy be nice?

Demars stars

Last spring, **Briton Demars** set the junior class record for 1,600 meters in track and field. This fall he almost became the school's second state champion.

Demars placed third in a time of 15 minutes, 24 seconds in the 4A state meet. His time was the eighth fastest among runners in all classifications.

The high finish wasn't enough, however, for the Bears to earn their third straight top-four finish and team trophy. They were a distant fifth this year, down from the title in 2012 and a third-place finish last year.

Just 21 seconds separated the other six CV runners, but their aggregate times averaged nearly 20 seconds per man slower than last year.

The race marked the end of a three-year saga for five runners. Sophomore **Isaac Nicholls** and freshman **Gabe Romney** lead the start of another.

CV's girls never had a complete team during the year, and that lack of training plus a bit faster field manifested itself in a sixth-place team finish a year after they placed fourth. One of the injured, **Briegan Bester** led the way with a time of 19:26.92. The Bears had nary a senior in the seven-team lineup.

Learning curve for gridders

Central Valley's (3-7) new spread offense accounted for three touchdowns or more in seven games, but the wins didn't come. A season-ending 35-23 loss to University, the first to them in 10 years, kept the Bears from a playoff to reach post-season.

Junior quarterback **Tanner Sloan** finished the year with 2,221 passing yards on 206-for-381 passing and 13 interceptions overall. He was second in the GSL. **Tucker Stout** had 47 catches for 548 yards and 7 touchdowns, **P.J. Bowden** had 21-584-6 and **Rhett Foley** was 44-437-5.

Central Valley had beaten Lewis and Clark 20-19 and Mead 30-14, but a tough 14-10 loss to Ferris and the Titans outcome were costly.

The Bears were extremely young and will have had a year's experience with the offense on which to build.

View all of the content in The Splash at:

www.libertylakesplash.com

Caring for our community

By Nancy Hill
SPLASH GUEST COLUMN



Every day when I come home from work I am met at the door by my dog Zoey. I adopted her from SCRAPS last year, when she was only five weeks old. Her mother was killed and she was abandoned along with her littermates. A Good Samaritan brought these helpless puppies to SCRAPS. Zoey needed someone to care about her and it was easy to do. In return, she is always happy to see me and gives me her unconditional love.

As a community, we have the opportunity to show that we care every day on some level whether it's about the animals, the environment or other social issues. Spokane County Regional Animal Protection Service (SCRAPS) is leading the charge to protect the animals in our community. SCRAPS depends on you to care enough to help by reporting animal cruelty, helping an injured animal, or simply taking a lost pet in until the owner can be found.

SCRAPS provides a safe haven for the community's homeless, stray and lost animals. These are animals that need special care, and helping with that are SCRAPS volunteers and donors. Every day, people like you care enough to volunteer their

time to enrich the lives of shelter animals. They come to SCRAPS to walk a dog, socialize a cat and to educate potential adopters. They go out into the community helping with outreach events, all while providing humane education. These volunteers are showing that they care in a valuable and tangible way. They are saving lives, building relationships and promoting responsible pet ownership.

SCRAPS donors also care. They care enough to donate to SCRAPS Animal Medical Fund so that our homeless animals can have the help that they deserve. These donations are essential in providing treatment for victims of animal cruelty and abuse. Donations also help support SCRAPS adoption and transport programs assuring that these animals will have a second chance in life.

Pet owners make decisions every day regarding their animals — whether they take the dog for a walk, groom the cat or simply show their animal some love. Part of caring is providing that pet with appropriate medical care, including vaccinations and sterilization. Pets also should be licensed and microchipped. "License Your Pet — Prove That You Care" is our motto as a licensed pet can easily be returned to the owner if it is lost. The license is your pet's phone call home and shows that you care.

We all have choices that we must make in life. The most basic choice is that of caring. My parents raised me to treat others the way I would want to be treated. To speak for those who can't speak for themselves: the children and the animals. To care about our community, our environment, and the future of our children and their children. It is essential as a community and as a nation that we look to the future and that we care. We have to care because if we don't — then who will?

Today you can make a difference in the life of someone or something. You can care and show kindness to a friend, a stranger or a homeless animal. Caring can be a simple act like mowing the neighbor's lawn. It also can be more significant by committing to volunteer at an organization, whether it is SCRAPS or another nonprofit in the community. You can donate to a cause that you care deeply about — helping to make a difference. The important thing is that you care, because together I know we can make a difference.

Nancy Hill is regional director of Spokane County Regional Animal Protection Service (SCRAPS), a progressive municipal animal protection agency serving as the regional provider for Spokane County and its municipalities. Nancy serves as the President of the SCRAPS Hope Foundation and has dedicated her career to helping the community's homeless animals. SCRAPS is a proud member of Partners Advancing Character Education (PACE).



Honoring a fallen hero



SPLASH AND SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Many community members gathered on a frigid Veterans Day to dedicate the most recent addition to the Fallen Heroes circuit course. The Navy station at Liberty Lake Town Square was dedicated in memory of Navy HN Gregory "Doc" Vercruyssen.

Pictured by the plaque are Electronic Technician Senior Chief Jason Spinden, Vietnam veteran John Kerr, Vercruyssen's brother Dean, and Fallen Heroes committee member Bob Wiese. Kerr, who served with Vercruyssen in Vietnam, traveled from New York to be at the dedication.



About the Opinion Page

The Splash opinion page is intended to be a community forum for discussing local issues. Please interact with us by sending a letter to the editor or Liberty Lake Voices guest column for consideration.

Letters to the editor of no more than 350 words or guest columns of about 700 words should be emailed to editor@libertylakesplash.com or mailed to P.O. Box 363, Liberty Lake, WA 99019. A full name and telephone number must be included for purposes of verification. A photo of the author must be taken or provided for all Liberty Lake Voices guest columns.

The Splash reserves the right to edit or reject any submission. Business complaints or endorsements will not be accepted, and political endorsement letters will only be accepted if they interact with issues of a campaign.

Views expressed in signed columns or letters do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper or its staff. Editorials, which appear under the heading "Splash Editorial," represent the voice of The Splash and are written by Editor/Publisher Josh Johnson.

THE

Splash

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About

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NEWS

MAYOR

Continued from page 4

the ring for other leadership positions like county commissioner and state representative. Are you still looking for another challenge beyond mayor?

A: I enjoy serving the community and trying to bring fresh new ideas on how we may solve some existing problems. Running for office is a way to champion and challenge those ideas in the public whether you win or lose. As to the future and as in the past, I really enjoy working for the community and serving as mayor.

Q: You are in the middle of another budget process right now. What are some of the challenges of putting together a preliminary budget for the City Council each year?

A: I've been involved in 10 budget cycles directly and commented on two when I was out of office. There is an adage — “plan your work and work your plan.” That is what our budget means to me. It serves as a planning tool to achieve our priorities for the community. It is also the opportunity for the citizens to weigh in on the things they would like to see accomplished in the next year. Successful management of the budget process has helped increase our services and capital investment in infrastructure while we maintain a lower property tax rate comparable to other jurisdictions in the county.

Q: Finally, what do you like most about living and leading in Liberty Lake?

A: It's the people, pure and simple. We have a safe, clean, green community with wonderful parks and trails, but it's the friendly people and conversations which take place that makes this a great place to live, work, play and raise a family.

Clarification

In the November issue of the Splash, it was reported that Navy Corpsman Greg Vercruysse lost his life in the Siege of Khe Sanh. While Vercruysse perished in a hill battle at Khe Sahh on June 7, 1967, the actual Siege of Khe Sanh took place from January through April of 1968.

Correction

The story, "Lake gets new water filters," in the November 2014 issue of The Splash was unclear on the nature of the relationship between the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District and the city of Liberty Lake. While LLSWD is the sewer and water service provider for most residents who live inside Liberty Lake city limits, it is not associated with the city government and operates as an independent utility. The district's service area includes much of the unincorporated area around the lake itself, including the Alpine Shores neighborhood where the water filtration system referred to in the story was installed.

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NEWS

COUNCIL

Continued from page 6

would house a restroom and storage space on the grounds of the Liberty Lake Ballfields, a project that added two baseball diamonds to a parcel near Liberty Lake Elementary this summer. While referring to the original estimate of \$160,000 for the restroom alone, Allen told council that the addition of storage room for equipment would bring the price to \$244,000.

Allen said lugging gear back and forth from the diamonds would present “a logistical challenge and efficiency issues.”

To date, the city has spent \$974,110.27 on the project. Kaminskis was one of several around the dais who expressed concern with going well beyond the \$1 million mark by adding the proposed building.

“I understand we need it, but I’m having a real struggle with the cost,” said Kaminskis who referred to the first approximation of \$800,000 for the overall construction.

Council Member Keith Kopelson said he was “frustrated” with the shifting numbers.

“Here’s another quarter million dollars we’re talking about,” he said.

The design of the building would resemble the restroom facility recently installed at Town Square Park. Allen acknowledged that the budget had increased significantly but reminded council that the parameters of the project had changed since the initial discussion of one diamond at \$500,000.

“I don’t want to overspend budgets either, but the variable tends to be the scope,” Allen said.

While no final decision on the building was made Nov. 18, Allen told council the city does have funds available for the project through the real estate excise tax.

The other ballfield debate had to do with drainage issues at the site, specifically a collection of quagmires that have cropped up on the perimeter of the fields. City Engineer Andrew Staples said the city was keeping an eye on the puddles in hopes that “the turf growing in would fix the problem.”

“If that doesn’t solve it, this would definitely be a warranty contractor issue,” he said.

Snow removal contract

Historically, the task of renewing the snow removal and de-icing agreement with Peplinski Construction has been a formality, but on Nov. 18, several council members questioned why there had not been a more competitive process involving the contract for clear and safe roads each winter.

An action item on the agenda — which would have approved the agreement with the Newman Lake company and autho-

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rized Peterson to sign the contract — was tabled after Kopelson and Langford suggested the city collect bids on the work.

“(Peplinski) does good work but just the fact that you do what you’re supposed to, shouldn’t mean you’re automatically awarded the contract,” Kopelson said.

Langford said comparing prices and securing a cost-effective agreement “is a matter of perception and good business.”

The 2014 contract with Peplinski covers \$70,000 with \$49,000 having been spent to this point.

Peterson agree that it would be a good idea to talk with other cities and gather bids, but emphasized the deliberation would not put streets in peril this winter.

“Our streets will not be filled with snow,” he said.

SVFD purchases new property

Spokane Valley Fire Chief Bryan Collins told council on Nov. 18 that plans to

move the existing fire station on Harvard Road to a site on Country Vista have now been adjusted after SVFD purchased a different 50,000-square-foot parcel on Country Vista between Legacy Ridge and Henry Road.

Collins called the eventual transition of the Harvard station to the new site “a win for us and a good thing for the city.”

Collins said the plan is to have the move completed by the end of 2017. The new location will provide better access to Interstate-90 and the new connector road across Henry, he added.

“It meets our response goals,” he said.

Collins said the department had “worked out favorable conditions” with the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District to purchase the site on Harvard which sits just to the south of the LLSWD treatment plant. He added that the developer of the original SVFD land on Country Vista had bought that property back.



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Historical carousel horse on display at LLES

Stokke family loans unique memento to school

By Valerie Putnam
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Liberty Lake Elementary is showcasing a special piece of history this year as part of its annual historic display. The display features a carousel horse from the original Herschell-Spillman "merry-go-round" that operated in Liberty Lake for 35 years.

The horse is on loan to the school from Darlene Stokke. Stokke's family has been in possession of unique memento for over 50 years. Darlene found the horse in her mother's basement and displayed it for over 25 years in her living room. After recently selling her home, Darlene decided to loan it to the community.

"I wanted the horse to be some place where people can enjoy it," Stokke said.

According to local historian Ross Schneidmiller, the horse was originally a gift to Darlene's mother from Don Betch, the last manager for Liberty Lake Park.

"We're just very fortunate the horse stayed in the community," Schneidmiller said. "Darlene loved the idea of the community being able to enjoy it as she has enjoyed it."

Though an authentic historical piece, the history of the horse is questionable. The horse is known to be carved in 1913 by the Herschell-Spillman company, the same year the carousel was originally purchased.

"There is a little bit of a mystery about the horse," Schneidmiller said. "But I strongly believe when the carousel was purchased and installed in Liberty Lake, this horse was part of it."

Herschell-Spillman horses are known for the eyes being carved into the wood instead of using jewels. They are also known for real horse hair tails, which this

horse is currently missing.

"We plan to add a real horse hair tail throughout the season," Schneidmiller said, who also plans to replace a missing horseshoe.

The horse is what Schneidmiller describes as an inside row "stander," which means it did not go up and down. Being an inside row carousel animal, the horse has a simple design, not as ornate as the outside row animals.

"The beauty is in its simplicity," Schneidmiller said. "You get to see the beauty of the natural horse."

To display the horse, Steve "Ras" Rasmussen sanded a large piece of butcher, put an edge on it and mounted a bracket. Schneidmiller's sister-in-law Kari Knudsen painted the block with a patina and antiqued a black pole. The 18-foot school display features old photographs, including a 6-foot picture of the carousel donated by Mountain Dog Sign Company.

The horse was ready to install early November.

"Different people stepped forward in the community to help with the stand," Schneidmiller said. "After it comes out of the school, I see that picture going into some sort of community space."

Ross and his wife Kelli Schneidmiller have been creating displays since the school opened with themes such as camps and camping, boating and the history of Liberty Lake schools. Liberty Lake Elementary Principal Joanne Comer said the Schneidmillers work hard every year to share a bit of Liberty Lake history with students, families, staff and community members.

"I love the display," Comer said. "As a history buff myself, I love learning about the history of the carousel and its place in history at Liberty Lake. This year it



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROSS SCHNEIDMILLER (ABOVE AND BELOW); SPLASH FILE PHOTO (LEFT)

A display at Liberty Lake Elementary School features the history of the Herschell-Spillman merry-go-round that operated in Liberty Lake for 35 years. Darlene Stokke loaned the carousel horse that she inherited from her mother and had displayed in her home.

A sign about the entrance of the Liberty Lake Café that originally housed the Herschel-Spillman Carousel read, "Merry-Go-Round: A Thing of Beauty is a Joy Forever."

is especially fun for the youngest students with the real carousel horse!"

After the holidays, ASB students at the school plan to implement a "Name the Carousel Horse" contest. The Schneidmillers also hope to develop an educational program around the carousel display to showcase where it's been and where it is now.

"We're looking forward to this and feel it would be an outstanding learning opportunity for our students," Comer said.



HISTORY OF THE CAROUSEL

The Herschell-Spillman Carousel is part of Liberty Lake Park's rich history. Michael Damascus purchased the park

property in 1926 and transformed the property into a carnival atmosphere with games of chance, a Ferris Wheel and a ride called the "Dangler." One year later, he purchased and installed the carousel initially in the Liberty Lake Cafe building.

Eventually a special octagonal building became the permanent structure for the carousel.

The carousel operated in Liberty Lake for 35 years before it was sold for \$5,000 in 1962. It was dismantled and sent to Tacoma, with the exception of

the display horse. In 1973, The Henry Ford Museum purchased the carousel for \$27,000. After decades of operation, the carousel was given a "historically-correct restoration" by restorer Tony Orlando.

The carousel features 40 carved

animals including 22 horses and 18 menagerie figures. There are 32 jumpers (animals that go up and down on a pole) and 8 stationary animals. Fully restored, the carousel is operating at the museum's Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Mich.

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